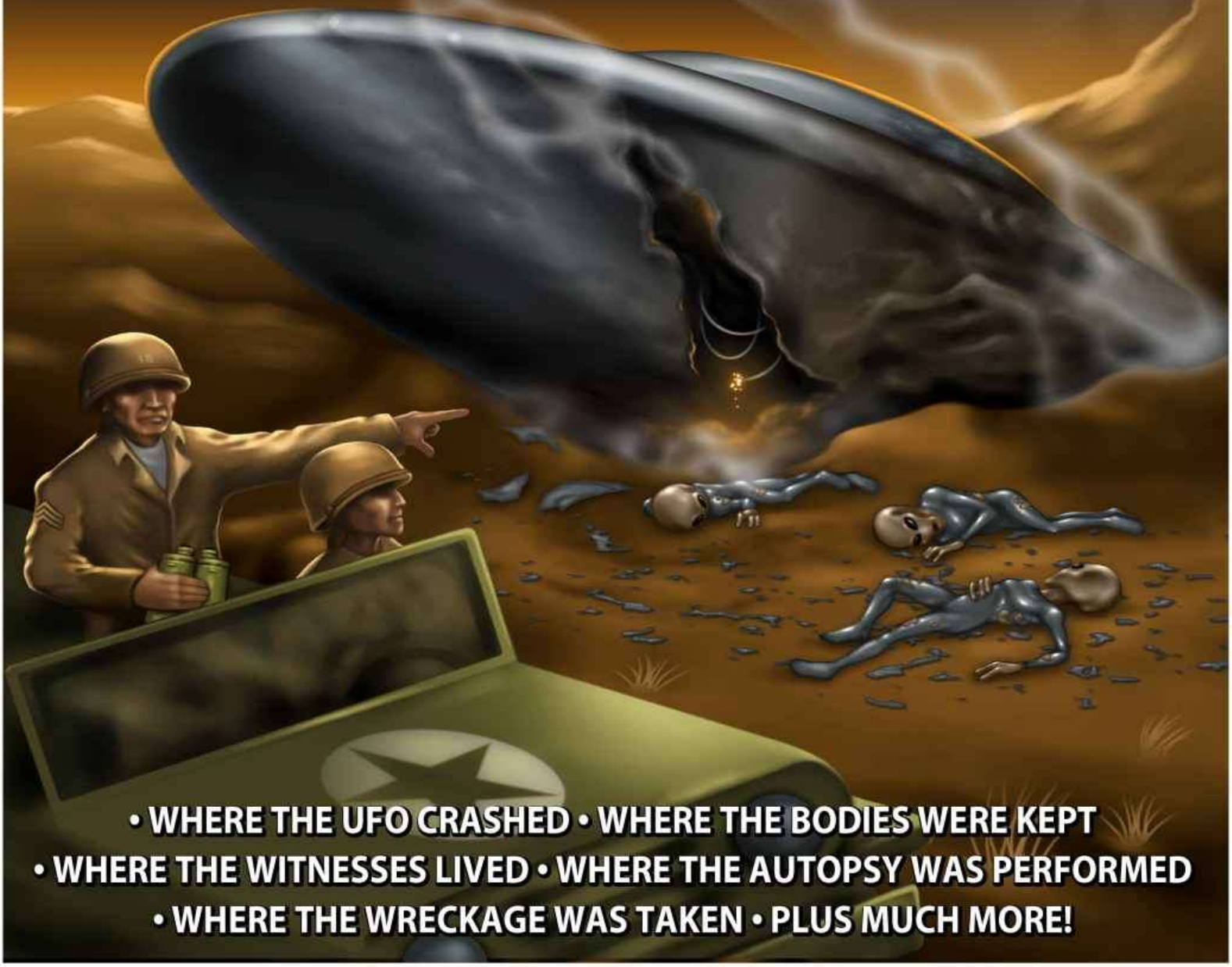
ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE

ROSWELL UFO CRASH

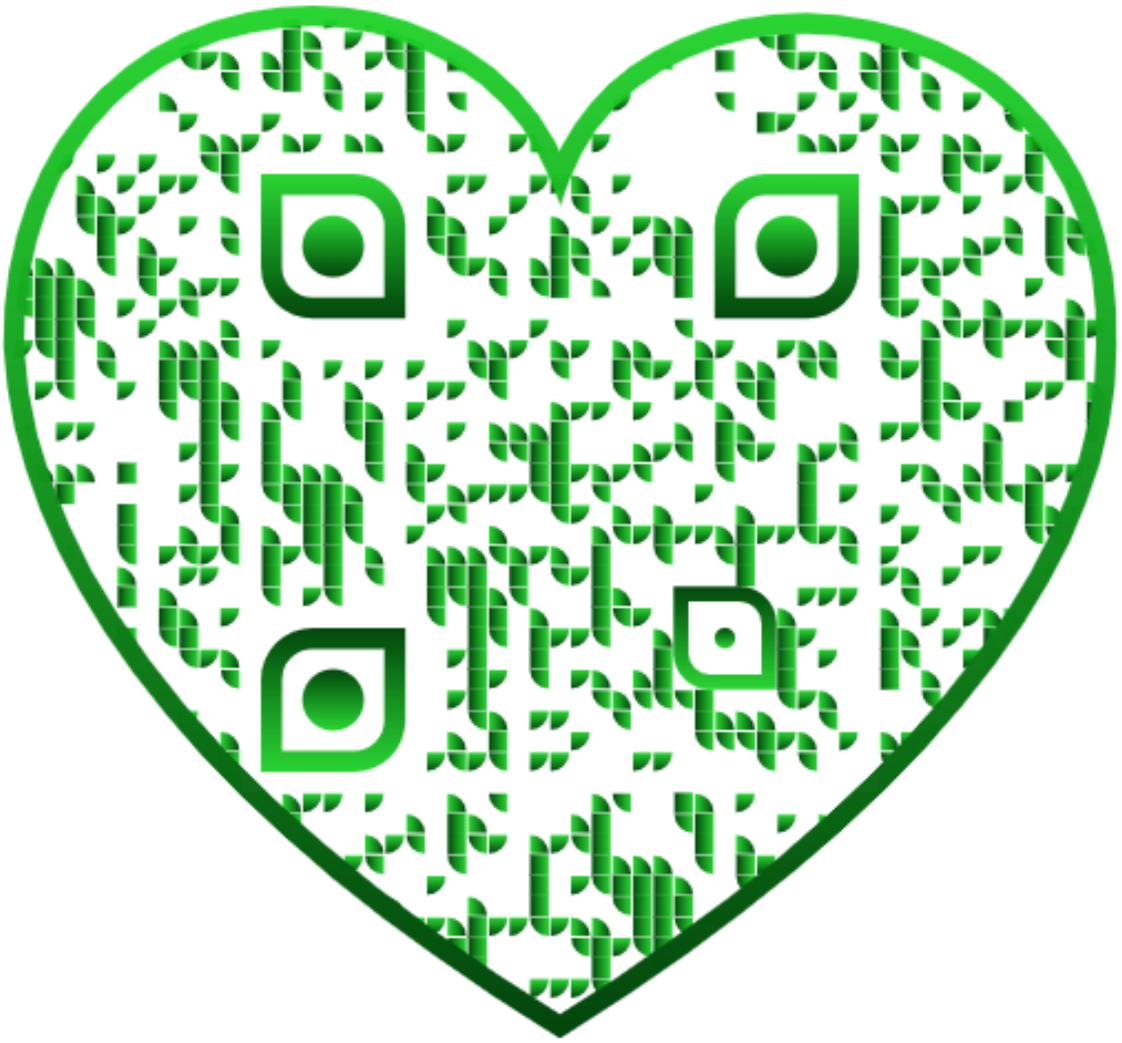
A Tour of Roswell's UFO Landmarks

By Noe Torres

Foreword by
Dr. Jesse Marcel, Jr.



• WHERE THE UFO CRASHED • WHERE THE BODIES WERE KEPT
• WHERE THE WITNESSES LIVED • WHERE THE AUTOPSY WAS PERFORMED
• WHERE THE WRECKAGE WAS TAKEN • PLUS MUCH MORE!



Edgar Mitchell (1970 NASA Photo)

Dedication

To my wife Robin and son Stephen, for quietly enduring the uncouth hermit obsessively pounding at his keyboard late into the night. Also, to my friend Ruben Uriarte, with whom I have wandered the desolate places of the Earth.

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FOREWORD

By Jesse Marcel, Jr.

Shortly after taking part in the Bikini Atoll atomic bomb tests in July of 1946, my father was assigned to the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF), the home base for the 509th Composite Bomb Group, which had ended World War II with the atomic bombing of Japan. He was Major Jesse A. Marcel, the intelligence officer for the 509th, and he had been on the "inside" of the top secret mission that brought the war with Japan to a close. His military training and experience were extensive, and his role as intelligence officer for the only atomic bomb group in the world was a serious one. Anyone who suggests that my dad wouldn't have been able to identify a downed high-altitude balloon is completely ignorant of his background and his training.

In late 1946, my parents and I moved into RAAF base housing, and, since the base had no school facilities at that time, I attended Mountain View School, located just outside the base, on the way into Roswell. A few months later, in the spring of 1947, we moved into town to a corner lot house located at 1300 West Seventh Street, which looks pretty much the same today as it did all those many years ago. There is a vacant lot still there across the street adjacent to the house where Johnny Peck, one of my close friends, lived. Those spring and early summer days in Roswell were the best times of my life. Gayle Salee, Johnny Peck and I spent many hours bicycling all over Roswell and west into the desert. I have such fond memories of that time of my life, especially the many hours spent playing with friends during the long, hot Roswell summers.

My dad had an office at the Roswell Army Air Field, but he really did not keep regular office hours there, as his job duties routinely required that he work far beyond normal working hours, including nights and weekends. The only time I ever saw where he worked at the RAAF was when he took my mom and me on a tour. What I remember most is a large room where briefing sessions were held for the bomb crews. In that room, I recall seeing a world map that glowed in luminescent hues from ultraviolet lights. All of this was quite impressive to me at the time.

Things went along routinely for the first part of 1947. And then "it" happened. One night in early July, I recall that my dad did not come home for supper, or if he did, I did not see him. Something seemed odd. I did not see him

again until very late the next evening or perhaps even very early in the morning on the day after that. At any rate, when he finally came home, I was asleep in my room and had already been asleep for hours, exhausted from a full day of bicycling with my friends.

I recall my dad waking me up in the middle of the night. He led me into the kitchen where, I think, my mother was already up and looking at a lot of debris scattered on the kitchen floor. Dad was very excited at what was there, but honestly I could not understand what all his excitement was about. To me, the junk strewn on the kitchen floor was just a lot of metal fragments that looked like a foil mixed together with something that seemed to be black plastic and also some metallic-looking beams.

While the debris did not make a great impression on me at first, my dad's description of it most certainly did. He told my mother and me that what we were looking at were parts from a flying saucer. Although, still groggy with sleep, the full implications of the phrase "flying saucer" did not sink it at first, I realized from my dad's excited state that this was something extremely unique and important.

My interest was especially piqued when Dad said that I would never see something like this again in my life. The realization suddenly dawned on me that what he was saying is that what we were looking at had come from somewhere besides Earth and that this was part of a machine from another planet.

He instructed us to search very carefully through the wreckage looking for any familiar electronic components, such as vacuum tubes, resistors condensers or wire. In fact, he had already searched the debris for these types of components and had found none, but he wanted us to conduct our own search and satisfy our own curiosities. So, Mom and I dutifully complied with his request and found nothing that looked like conventional electronics in the debris.

Regarding the thin metallic debris that looked like foil, I recall that it seemed similar to today's aluminum wrap, and yet there was a noticeable difference in its appearance and feel. I struggle to adequately explain the exact differences and can only say that it seemed like aluminum wrap but clearly was not.

The strangest parts of the debris were some straight metallic pieces that I have always thought of as I-beams. Marked on one surface of these beams were strange hieroglyphic-like symbols with kind of a violet or purple hue to them. One of these I-beams was 12 to 18 inches long and about three eighths of an inch across (cross sectional width). The beam appeared to be metallic and may have been made of the same material as the foil.

The other material in the debris seemed to be kind of a black plastic, sort of like Bakelite, which was a common material used in the manufacture of

countertops at that time. Upon examining this dark material, along with the foil-like material and the I-beams, I was left with the distinct impression that the debris was something very special and certainly not of any common or ordinary composition.

People often ask me, “Why didn’t you keep some of it?” The reason, as simple as it sounds, is that the viewing of the material had been a privilege granted to me by my father, and I knew that his job demanded that he take it the RAAF. The material was not ours to keep and was ultimately the property of the United States Army Air Force. In truth, it never occurred to me to keep any of it, and I guarantee that had I kept any of it, I would not have it now because the military was hell-bent on recovering all of it. First, the army worked to ensure that none of the material fell into civilian hands, and second, if any of it did, they used every resource at their disposal to get it back.

Bill Brazel held on to a piece of the strange debris for some time after the Roswell Incident, but shortly after he spoke of it to some of his friends, he received a visit from a group of mysterious individuals presumably representing military intelligence, and the debris was taken from him.

I’m often asked how this experience affected my life. In other words, how did I change after handling material which to this day I am convinced came from another civilization? The experience as definitely a “game changer” in my life. An immediate impact was that it increased my belief in God as Creator of the nearly limitless universe. Suddenly and profoundly, I realized that human beings are *not alone* in the vast cosmos and that God’s unbounded creative energies did not begin or end with the creation of life on Earth. After what I witnessed in Roswell, I attended Saint Peter’s Roman Catholic School, where I sought out a personal faith that could sustain me and could help me understand my role in the immensity of God’s universe.

Colonel Jesse Marcel, Jr. in 2004 While Serving as Flight Surgeon for the 189th Attack Helicopter Battalion in Iraq (Courtesy of Colonel Marcel)

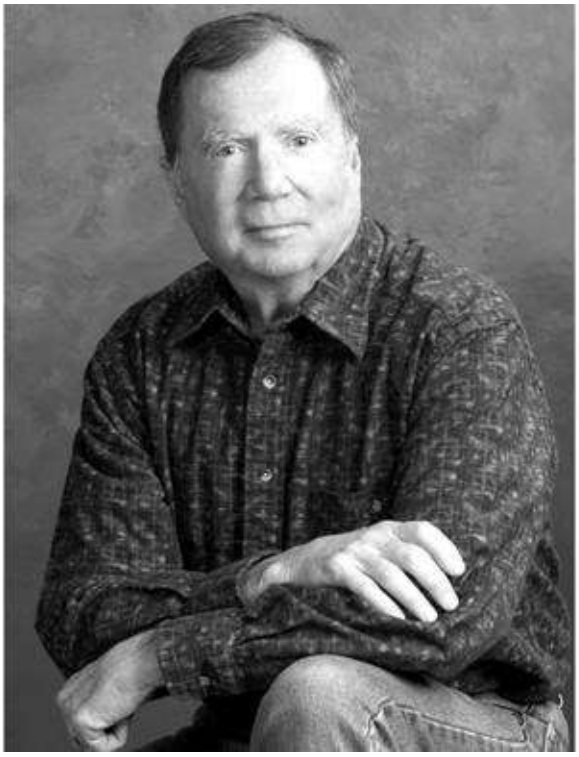
Hand in hand with my renewed spiritual leanings, I also developed a keen interest in astronomy and read all I could about other star systems. Although it would be 50 years before astronomers confirmed the existence of other planetary systems, my family and I already knew the truth back in 1947. Obviously, the wreckage we handled in the kitchen of our small home came from a civilization not of the Earth.

Evidence exists that ancient humans saw UFOs flying across the sky and depicted such sightings in primitive drawings, paintings, sculpture, and other media. From crude drawings in caves showing flying disks in the sky to medieval paintings containing flying saucers hovering in the background, the images are haunting. Fast forward to modern times and the Roswell Incident is the "grandfather" of all UFO events. It was the trigger for the world's fascination with unknown aerial phenomena, which continues unabated to this very day. Since there was physical evidence in the form of debris falling on the Foster Ranch, the Roswell crash was hard to cover up. In spite of official denials by the military stating that the debris was merely a crashed weather balloon, interest in the Roswell case continues to grow even today, despite the passing of decades.

Why do so many people all around the world remain fascinated by this case? I believe it is the one case with a preponderance of unyielding evidence. There were just too many first-hand witnesses attesting to the fact that the Roswell Incident was something of far greater significance than a weather balloon. Witnesses have given sworn statements that, after the crash, they saw some really exotic materials and, even, the remains of a crew.

These stunning revelations have produced mixed emotions on the part of the general public. Some skeptics maintain that because we ourselves are not capable of interstellar travel, no other civilizations in the universe could possibly have developed it either. They fail to understand that the limits on star travel imposed by Albert Einstein's theory of relativity can be overcome if the technology is advanced enough to allow for faster than light (FTL) speeds. The principles behind FTL have already been worked out in theory, and now, all we are waiting on is the engineering to create starships.

Other people do not like the idea of extraterrestrial life because it interferes with the belief that humans are the only intelligent beings in God's creation. Those who espouse this idea are limiting God's creative ability, which I believe is wrong. Mortal man cannot know the awesome and wonderful purposes of God. We know only as much as He has chosen to reveal to us at any given time. Even the Vatican, in all its orthodoxy and tradition, recently floated the idea that a belief in extraterrestrial life does not conflict with one's belief in God. To paraphrase Carl Sagan, if ours is the only planet in the cosmos with intelligent life on it, then the universe suffers from an incredible waste of space.



Jesse Marcel, Jr., 2008 Photo (Courtesy of Colonel Marcel)

I believe our planet is headed toward its ultimate "*aha*" moment, when the truth that we have been visited by extraterrestrial beings will be finally and indisputably revealed. This revelation may occur as a result of the world's governments finally releasing documents containing undeniable facts of past contact. Or, it may happen in the form of a massive and simultaneous worldwide event in which our long-time visitors finally reveal themselves to us, as in the movie *Independence Day*. If such a sudden revealing does occur, one can only hope that, unlike the villainous aliens of that motion picture, our visitors will be benevolent. It stands to reason that they will be, since given the advanced technology that they surely must possess, they could have easily destroyed us many times over long before now.

Regardless of how the truth is finally revealed, we can be confident that it will be. We can also rest assured that intelligent life does exist elsewhere in the universe, and that we have been visited. These facts are inescapable.

Allow this book that you now hold in your hands to be your guide on an amazing journey to all the key places that are connected to the events of the Roswell UFO crash of 1947. Here you will read about my former home, which still stands in Roswell and where we examined the strange wreckage. You will also read about many other places, including the mysterious RAAF aircraft hangar, where witnesses say UFO wreckage and bodies were temporarily stored.

Through a clearer understanding of the Roswell event, we discover greater truth about the universe and our place in it. *WE ARE NOT ALONE*.

Jesse Marcel, Jr.
Helena, Montana
September 30, 2009

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INTRODUCTION

Without a doubt, the reported crash of a "flying saucer" near Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947 is the world's best known UFO story. So many decades later, it remains the benchmark by which all such cases are measured and is still regarded as perhaps the most intriguing UFO incident of all time. More than just a flying saucer story, the Roswell case has seemingly become intertwined with man's longstanding quest for evidence of extraterrestrial contact in our past. It has achieved a mythic status unlike any other "paranormal" event in recent history, remaining as much of an unsolved mystery today as it was back when it occurred.

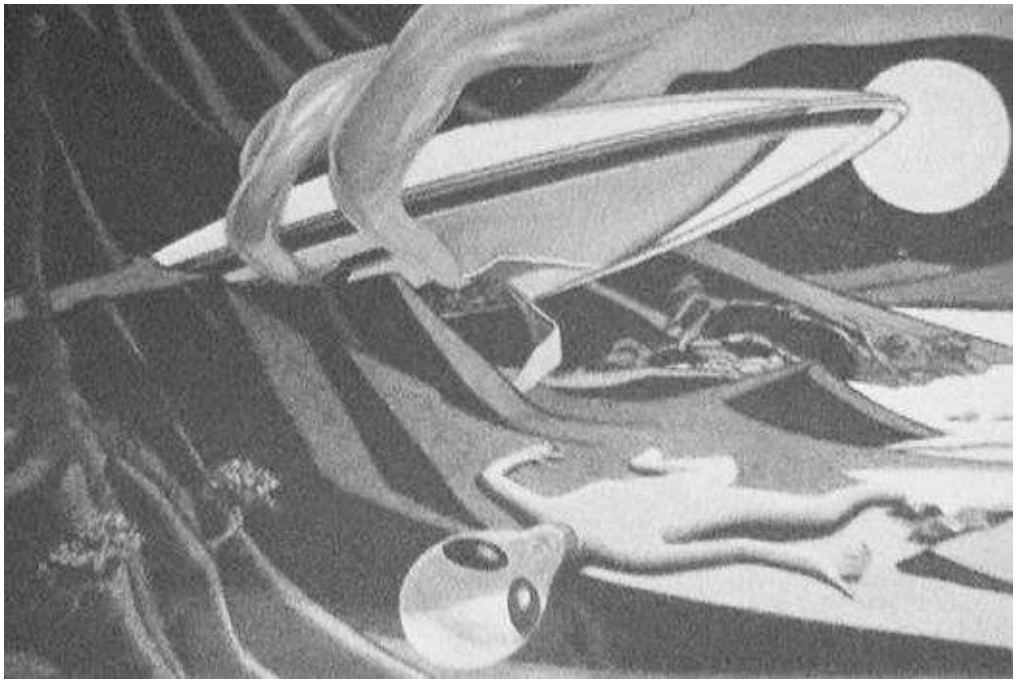
The objective of this book is simple: to transport you, the reader, on a self-guided tour of modern-day Roswell, visiting the very places where the Roswell Incident happened. It puts the power of discovery into your hands, allowing you to explore the tangible in order to experience the intangible.

Be prepared for the mind-blowing experience of visiting the places where the actual events of Roswell Incident took place. Walking the same sidewalks where the witnesses walked. Standing in the same rooms where witnesses said they saw alien bodies. Looking across the same rocky field where metallic pieces of something strange came raining down out of the sky. In visiting these wondrous places, you encounter an overwhelming "presence" – call it the force of history or call it the paranormal. You will find yourself face to face with what is potentially one of the most monumental moments in human history, if we are to believe the hundreds of individuals who have claimed involvement in the case.

This book is organized in the form of a self-guided driving tour with stops along the way, beginning in the downtown section of Roswell and then slowly moving outward to more distant sites, to neighboring towns and ranches, and

even to nearby cities and counties. The book's starting point, downtown Roswell, is a natural one, considering that most of the mystery and intrigue surrounding this case happened in and around the city limits. Also, since most of the sites of interest are located in Roswell, it is the ideal base of operations, from which readers may venture out to explore other more distant sites.

Our stops include the army air base hospital where witnesses say strange bodies, not quite human, were brought in from a UFO crash site in the desert north of Roswell. Other stops include a section of a former ranch where witnesses in 1947 found a field of metallic debris with reported unearthly properties. Another stop is a cafeteria where a nearly-hysterical nurse drew sketches of strange creatures she saw being autopsied by military doctors. And, our stops also include other stretches of desert ranchland north of Roswell where witnesses stumbled upon additional UFO evidence.



Mural at the Roswell UFO Museum (2008 Photo by Noe Torres)

These are but a few of the wonders that await us, as we take an incredible journey back to the year 1947 and experience first-hand what it must have been like for the people of Roswell who suddenly gained awareness that, in the blink of an eye, beings from somewhere other than Earth might have landed right in their midst.

Before starting our tour, here is a brief summary of what happened in Roswell so many years ago. During an intense thunderstorm over the Fourth of July weekend in 1947, a strange airship scattered metal fragments over a large area of

the Foster Ranch located about 60 aerial miles northwest of Roswell. The military later collected many wheelbarrows full of the strange debris. The UFO that ejected all this debris is said to have pulled back up and continued its flight for a while longer, finally impacting into the Earth at a different location some miles away. At least four “non-human” creatures, three dead and one still alive, were later discovered at the impact site.

On the following morning, military personnel from the Roswell Army Air Field were dispatched to secure the final impact site, retrieve all the wreckage, and recover bodies. Before the military made all the evidence disappear, however, a number of local residents visited the site, including firemen, policemen, and ordinary civilians. The military proceeded to do its job quickly and thoroughly, and then returned to the Roswell air base. According to a number of eyewitnesses, both the strange beings and the wreckage from the unearthly spacecraft were kept under armed guard and the tightest of security at the Roswell military base for several days, before finally being sent by plane to military installations in other states.

Meanwhile, rancher W.W. “Mack” Brazel found the wreckage scattered around the Foster Ranch and later reportedly found another area of the ranch containing more wreckage and the bodies of two or three creatures described as “not human.” Brazel reported the finding of the debris to the county sheriff, whose office was in Roswell. The sheriff contacted the Roswell Army Air Field about the discovery, and the military quickly rounded up all of the debris and warned Brazel never to speak about what he found. The mysterious debris was seen by a number of other Roswell residents, including Major Jesse A. Marcel, Sr., Air Intelligence Officer at the Roswell Army Air Field. Among the debris was a lightweight metal like aluminum but that had the strange property of unfolding by itself when crumpled up into a ball, leaving no trace of creases or any deformity. Other material found at the Foster ranch contained a strange kind of writing resembling Egyptian hieroglyphics.

On July 8, the Roswell air base issued an official press release stating that a “flying disk” had been “captured” at the Foster sheep ranch and that it was being held at the base. In truth, the “disk” had not been found at the ranch – only a large field of strange, metallic debris.

Finally, on the day after the famous “flying disk” admission was made, the Army immediately followed up with another statement saying that the whole thing had been a mistake and that what was found on the ranch was only a weather balloon. Witnesses later stated that the Army deliberately manipulated the media in order to divert attention away from the fact that a flying disk had indeed been recovered but at another location – not at the Foster Ranch. The

news releases served to focus public attention on the Foster Ranch rather than on the second site, where the UFO had actually crashed.

The bait-and-switch sleight of hand worked, although not as well as the military would have liked. There were simply too many witnesses, and although all of them were sworn to secrecy and many were threatened with fates worse than death, strange rumblings about "what really happened at Roswell" continued for decades after 1947. The bubble of secrecy held fast through the patriotic 1950s but started to weaken during the anti-government protests of the 1960s and the Watergate scandal of the 1970s. Having reached an era when Americans finally realized that the U.S. government was not infallible and that many secrets had indeed been kept from the public, the bubble of secrecy finally burst in 1978, as former Roswell intelligence officer Jessie A. Marcel, Sr. finally came forward with an admission that the object that crashed near Roswell in 1947 had not been a weather balloon at all, but an object from beyond the Earth.

Some researchers feel that the Roswell Incident and the massive numbers of UFO sightings in the late 1940s and early 1950s may have been related to the beginning of mankind's experimentation with nuclear weapons. July 1947 marked the two-year anniversary of the detonation of the world's first nuclear device, codenamed "Trinity," in the New Mexico desert near Alamogordo. This artificial sun rising in broad daylight marked the beginning of the Atomic Age – the first time in known history when human beings had the power to destroy all life on the planet with just a few carefully placed bombs.

World's First Atomic Bomb Detonated at Trinity Site in Southern New Mexico (U.S. Dept. of Energy)

Then in August 1945, two atomic bombs dropped on Japan in 1945 were delivered by aircraft from the U.S. Army's 509th bomber group, whose base of operations in 1947 was Roswell, New Mexico. Life on Earth changed forever with those rising mushroom clouds, as the Cold War between U.S. and Russia began in earnest and hundreds more atmospheric bomb tests lit up our skies. Perhaps all those explosions seemed as global signal flares on the face of our planet, attracting to our world the waves of flying saucers seen all over Earth around the time of the Roswell Incident. Perhaps this was the signal we inadvertently sent out into space saying, "Hey, we're stupid and dangerous enough now to destroy not only our planet but maybe yours, too, in the future!"

It is now time to embark on a wondrous journey back in time and down the rabbit hole with Alice. Whether you are actually using this book to take a self-guided tour of all the locations mentioned or whether you are using it merely to take a virtual tour in your own mind, please be advised that when you clamber back aboveground after wandering around in this rabbit hole, your view of life and the universe may never be the same ….

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MARCEL RESIDENCE

Status: Still standing.
Location: 1300 W. 7th St. (Intersection of W. 7th & Montana Ave.)
Accessibility: Private residence.

In the early morning hours of July 8, 1947, Jesse Marcel, Jr., age 11, was asleep in his bedroom at 1300 West 7th Street, when his father suddenly came into his room and excitedly told him to follow him into the kitchen to look at something very strange. What Major Jesse Marcel, Sr. was about to show his son on that quiet summer evening would change both their lives forever. After the two walked through the quiet house in eager anticipation, the elder Marcel spread out on the kitchen table a boxful of metallic debris like neither had ever seen before.

East Side of Former Marcel Residence at 1300 W. 7th (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

The material, collected by the elder Marcel earlier in the day at the Foster Ranch, north of town, included metal foil, broken pieces of a plastic-like material, and metal beams ("I" beams). "The foil had a more or less dull

appearance, kind of like a burnished aluminum surface, not shiny or highly reflective, although one side may have been more polished than the other," Jesse Marcel, Jr. wrote in his book *The Roswell Legacy*. "The surface of the foil itself was somewhat smooth. The pieces themselves didn't have any distinct design or shape; they were amorphous. I remember looking at some of the foil material for quite a while. In particular, I remember how light it was – if you dropped it, it would float like a feather."

BLM Map Showing Location of Former Marcel Residence

When Major Marcel later examined the material back at the Roswell Army Air Field, he noticed that when he bent or folded a piece of the strange foil, it would immediately straighten itself and return to its original shape, a property that caused UFO researchers to refer to it as "memory metal." Additionally, attempts to dent or deform some of the larger pieces of the debris using a sledge hammer were unsuccessful, which meant that some of the pieces were virtually indestructible.

But perhaps the strangest thing witnessed at the Marcel residence that night in 1947 was a group of strange hieroglyphic-like symbols on one of the pieces of the debris. In *The Roswell Legacy*, Marcel, Jr. remembered, "There were about thirty symbols, one right after another. These figures were solid; they were not

line drawings…. One reminded me of a seal balancing a ball on its nose. The symbol was like a truncated pyramid with a solid ball over the apex … The symbol located just to the right of this was an oblate spheroid. The spheroid sometimes would appear with two smaller spheroids below the larger spheroid, sometimes above. As I recall the next symbol had the same configuration but it was reversed 90 degrees. To the right of these symbols was a simple oval…."

1946 RAAF Yearbook Photo (Courtesy of the Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico-HSSNM)

After the impromptu viewing of the flying saucer crash debris, Major Marcel gathered up all the material and took it with him back to the base. As it turned out, he later accompanied some of the material collected from the Foster Ranch as it was flown to Wright Air Field at Dayton, Ohio, aboard a military cargo plane.

"When my dad returned to Roswell [from Dayton, Ohio], he cautioned my mother and me never to tell others what we had seen that night. In talking with him later, he confirmed that this material was from an unearthly craft, and I was certainly convinced of it myself."

Contrary to what some people believe, the Marcel residence was never "ransacked" or even searched by military officials looking for pieces of the Foster Ranch debris that may have been left behind. Jesse Marcel, Jr. said, "No, I don't recall any military people coming to the house after that night [when Major Marcel showed the debris to his wife and son]. I think that my dad as being the intelligence officer for the 509th had enough credibility that they felt there was no need to come to the house and look for any 'spare parts.' I can safely say that no one from the military came over at any time to look around."

North Side of Former Marcel Residence. Window on Right was Jesse Marcel, Jr.'s Bedroom (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Today, as we stand outside the former residence of the Marcels on West 7th Street in Roswell, we can only imagine what it must have been like during that moment forever frozen in time when the tiny kitchen table of the house held fragments of what may have been a spacecraft from beyond Earth. In our mind's eye, we can see 11-year-old Jesse Marcel, Jr. holding the wreckage in his hands and wondering about humanity's place in the universe. "From that evening on, my life took on a different meaning," he wrote in *The Roswell Legacy*. "I could never look at the night sky the same way again, because, for all I knew, someone else might be looking back."

The former Marcel residence is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of West 7th Street and Montana Avenue. Across the street to the north is an empty lot, which was there in 1947. Jesse Marcel, Jr. remembers playing in that empty lot with neighborhood friends. "Johnny Peck, Gale Sallee and I played war games and rode our bicycles on that lot," Marcel said. His friend Johnny Peck lived in the house just north of the vacant lot.

When visiting the former Marcel residence in Roswell, please respect the privacy and property of the home's current occupants. You can drive by and take pictures from the street, but please do not trespass.

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WILMOT RESIDENCE

Status: Still standing.
Location: 105 S. Pennsylvania Ave. (Intersection of 1st & Penn.)
Accessibility: Private residence.

Our extraordinary tour continues with a downtown Roswell home where a strange object was seen flying across the western horizon on the evening of July 2, 1947. At first glance, this UFO sighting seemed of no more significance than any of the hundreds of others. But, what made this sighting unique in retrospect is that it served as a harbinger of things to come. It was the first indication that something beyond any earthly explanation was about to descend upon the quiet desert community of Roswell.

The Former Wilmot Residence (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

With an estimated 1947 population of 22,000, Roswell's economic life-blood came mainly from two industries: ranching and the Roswell Army Air Field on the south end of town. Many of the town's businesses were geared toward providing goods and services to the soldiers stationed at the base. There is little

doubt that Dan Wilmot, owner of the Wilmot Hardware Store, also benefited greatly from the presence of the Army base.

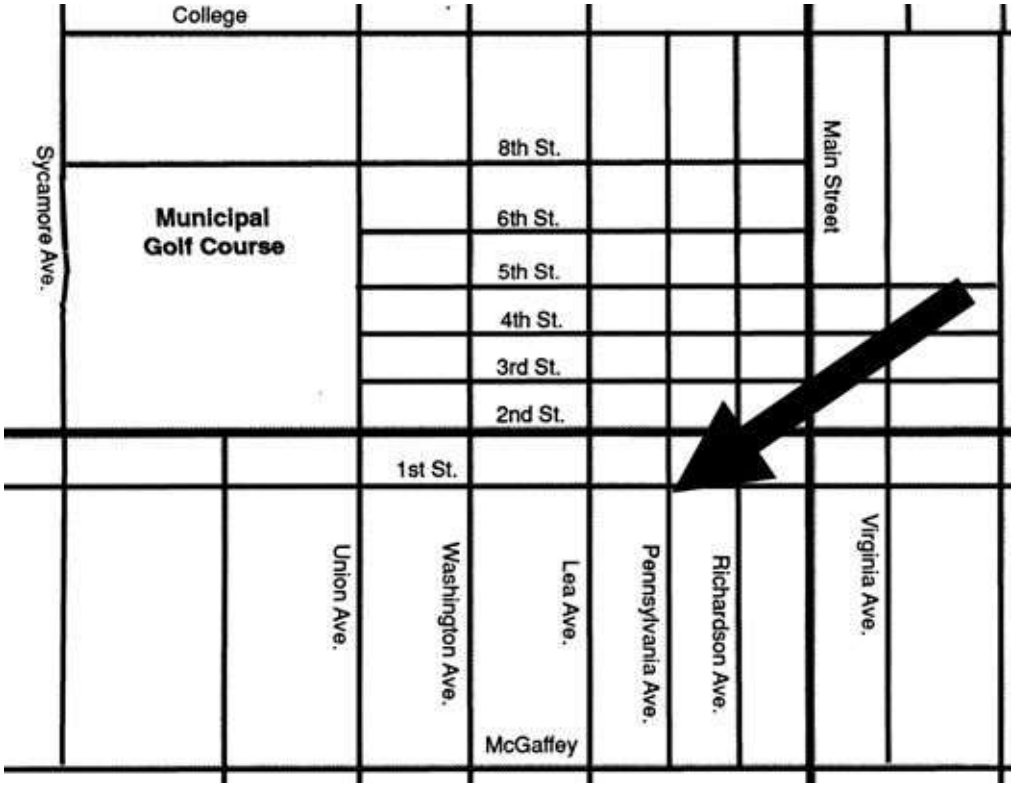
On that quiet summer evening, Wilmot and his wife were sitting on the front porch of their home at 105 South Pennsylvania Avenue in the heart of downtown, when they saw a brightly-lit, circular “flying disk” streaking across the sky over the western part of town. In the story of their sighting, published six days later in the Roswell newspaper, they described a “large glowing object” approaching their position from the southeast and moving toward the northwest at a high rate of speed.

Wilmot told the newspaper that the object seemed to be flying at an altitude of about 1,500 feet and traveling between 400 and 500 miles per hour. He estimated that the object may have been between 15 and 20 feet in diameter. Wilmot and his wife stood in their yard and viewed the UFO for slightly less than one minute, before it disappeared over the treetops off to the west at Six Mile Hill, a 10-mile long rocky ridge that forms the city’s western boundary. Wilmot heard no sound at all during the sighting, but his wife thought she heard a very faint and very brief “swishing” sound as the object moved past their vantage point.

The newspaper account stated, “… it [the UFO] looked oval in shape like two inverted saucers, faced mouth to mouth, or like two old type washbowls placed, together in the same fashion. The entire body glowed as though light were showing through from inside, though not like it would be if a light were merely underneath.”

The newspaper article concluded by saying, “Wilmot, who is one of the most respected and reliable citizens in town, kept the story to himself hoping that someone else would come out and tell about having seen one, but finally today [July 8] decided that he would go ahead and tell about it. The announcement that the RAAF [Roswell Army Air Field] was in possession of one came only a few minutes after he decided to release the details of what he had seen.”

Interestingly, the newspaper reporter felt it was important to state that the Wilmots disclosed their sighting “a few minutes” before the famous press release by the Roswell Army Air Field stating that the U.S. Army had captured a flying saucer.



Former Wilmot Home at Corner of 1st Street and S. Pennsylvania Ave.

The complete story of the Wilmots' sighting, as reported in the *Roswell Record* on July 8, 1947, follows:

"Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilmot apparently were the only persons in Roswell who saw what they thought was a flying disk. They were sitting on their porch at 105 South Penn. last Wednesday night at about ten o'clock when a large glowing object zoomed out of the sky from the southeast, going in a northwesterly direction at a high rate of speed. Wilmot called Mrs. Wilmot's attention to it and both ran down into the yard to watch.

"It was in sight less then a minute, perhaps 40 or 50 seconds, Wilmot estimated. Wilmot said that it appeared to him to be about 1,500 feet high and going fast. He estimated between 400 and 500 miles per hour.

1940s Photo of Main Street with Wilmot Hardware Sign Visible on Upper Right (Courtesy of HSSNM)

"In appearance it looked oval in shape like two inverted saucers, faced mouth to mouth, or like two old type washbowls placed, together in the same fashion. The entire body glowed as though light were showing through from inside, though not like it would be if a light were merely underneath. From where he stood Wilmot said that the object looked to be about 5 feet in size, and making allowance for the distance it was from town he figured that it must have been 15 to 20 feet in diameter, though this was just a guess. Wilmot said that he heard no sound but that Mrs. Wilmot said she heard a swishing sound for a very short time. The object came into view from the southeast and disappeared over the treetops in the general vicinity of six mile hill.

"Wilmot, who is one of the most respected and reliable citizens in town, kept the story to himself hoping that someone else would come out and tell about having seen one, but finally today decided that he would go ahead and tell about it. The announcement that the RAAF was in possession of one came only a few minutes after he decided to release the details of what he had seen."

The former Wilmot residence at 105 South Pennsylvania Avenue still exists as a private residence and home-based business (dog grooming service). Visitors

are urged to respect the current homeowners' property and privacy. Please do not trespass or disturb the current occupants.

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ROSWELL FIRE STATION

Status: Original building demolished. Current fire station built on same site.
Location: 200 South Richardson Avenue
Accessibility: City government building.

The involvement of the Roswell fire department in the 1947 UFO incident was first revealed by Frankie Rowe, daughter of firefighter Dan Dwyer, who told her that he had seen a crashed UFO and bodies. This incredible story began early on the morning of July 5, 1947, when the Roswell fire station at 200 South Richardson first received word about an "incident" out north of town.

Roswell's Central Fire Station is Located on Site of 1947 Station
(Photo by E.J. Wilson)

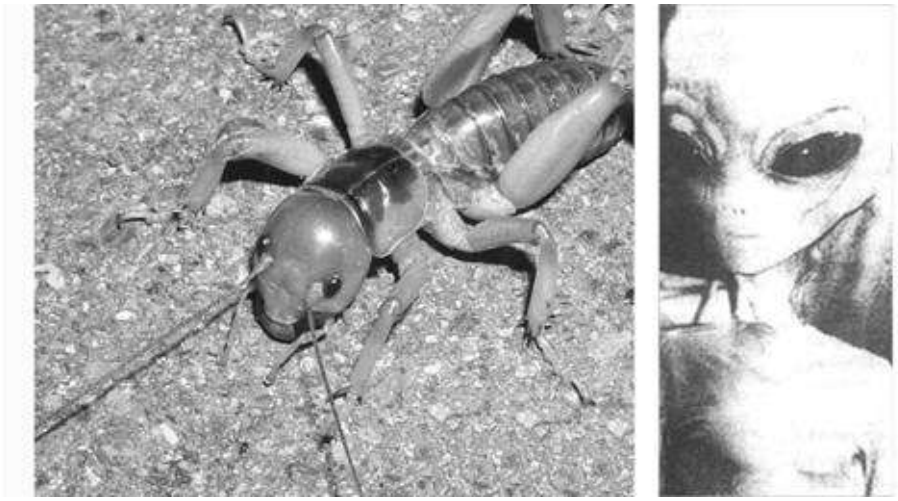
The crash site Dwyer said he visited was not at the Foster Ranch, where Major Marcel gathered the debris that he showed to his wife and son. Rather,

this was a distinctly different location, some miles away. Researchers believe that the same UFO that scattered debris over the Foster Ranch remained airborne for a while longer before crashing at a location closer to the town of Roswell. This "final" crash site is said to be where the main section of the UFO came to rest and where bodies were recovered.

Fireman Dan Dwyer also saw a small non-human creature standing outside the crashed saucer, according to his daughter Frankie Rowe, who was 12 years old in 1947. Rowe said, "Daddy was on the crew that went. He told us later that what he saw was the wreckage of some type of flying craft. He did not know what it looked like. He couldn't tell. He said they were very small pieces. A lot of it had been picked up."

"There were apparently three people in the craft, because he saw two body bags and he saw one live person, a very small being about the size of a 10-year-old child," Rowe remembers. "They put this being in a vehicle and took it away immediately…. They did take the two body bags away in a separate vehicle." (Randle & Schmitt, pp. 20-21)

According to Rowe, her father believed the strange being he saw standing near the wreckage was definitely an adult, although its body was small. The being was completely hairless, and it seemed uninjured. In struggling to describe it, Dwyer compared its face to that of an insect called the Jerusalem Cricket or "Child of the Earth." This insect, which is common in the Southwestern U.S., is said to resemble the so-called "gray" aliens.



Left: Photo of Jerusalem Cricket (Wikipedia.org)
Right: Alleged Gray Alien (Courtesy of Bob Dean)

Rowe herself later had a chance to see some of the extraordinary debris that had been recovered where the object crashed. "I was in the fire house waiting for my father to take me home. A state trooper arrived and displayed a piece of

metallic debris that he said he'd picked up on the crash site. It was a dull gray and about the thickness of aluminum foil. When wadded into a ball, it would unfold itself. The fire fighters were unable to cut or burn it." [Randle & Schmitt, p. 263]

Another View of Roswell's Central Fire Station (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

In an interview with investigator Karl Pflock, Rowe said, "[The state trooper] took his hand out of his pocket, and he dropped what he had in his fist on the table. He said it was something he picked up out at the crash site. It looked like quicksilver when it was on the table, but you could wad it up. [It was] a little larger than . . . [his] hand. It had jagged edges [and it was a dull grayish-silver color.] You couldn't feel it in your hand. It was so thin that it felt like holding a hair . . . It wasn't anything you'd ever seen before. It flowed like quicksilver when you laid it on the table. [The firemen and the trooper] tried to tear it, cut it and burn it. It wadded up into nothing. The state cop said he'd gotten away with just this one small piece, and he said he didn't know how long he'd be able to keep it, if the military found out."

A member of the military later came to Frankie Rowe's house and told her, in the presence of her mother, that if she ever spoke to anyone about the unusual piece of metal, she would simply "be taken out into the desert, never to return." [Randle & Schmitt, p. 263]

In an account appearing on *ufocon.blogspot.com* in March 2009, UFO investigator Anthony Bragalia told of his conversation with the son of the late Rue Chrisman, who was the Roswell Fire Chief in 1947. After much prodding by Bragalia, the younger Chrisman finally admitted, "It did happen. There was a

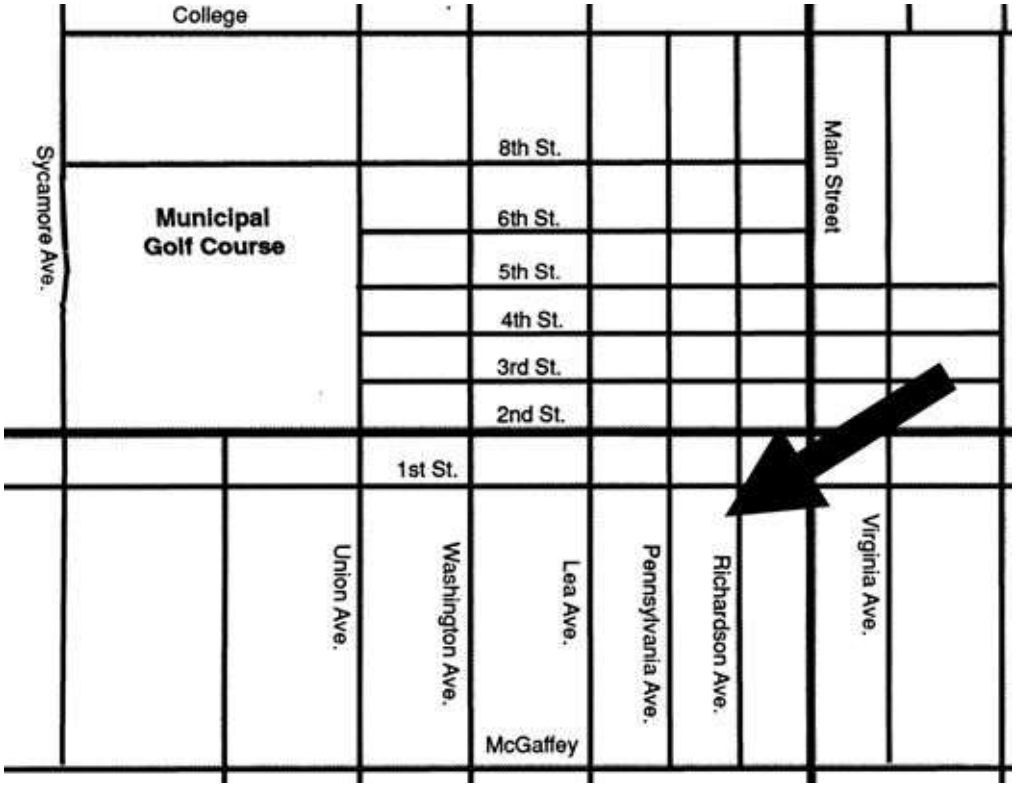
big cover up. The crash was real." When Bragalia asked why he believed it, Chrisman responded, "I knew too many who knew."

Then Chrisman gave Bragalia the name of the only Roswell firefighter from 1947 that was still alive (at age 90) in 2009, identified only as "Mr. Smith," in order to protect his privacy. Smith told Bragalia that immediately after the UFO crash, an intimidating Army Colonel visited the Roswell Fire Department. The colonel told the firemen that an "unknown object from someplace else" had crashed in the desert outside Roswell and warned them to keep the matter secret and not to attempt to visit the crash scene. He told them that the rescue operation that was being handled entirely by the military." Because of what the colonel said to them and also what he later heard from other witnesses, Smith is convinced that the crashed object was not from the Earth.

Smith also confirmed Frankie Rowe's story that Dan Dwyer and several other firefighters went out to the crash site, despite the colonel's directive. According to Smith, the city firemen went of their own volition, and not really in response to a "call." It was actually the Roswell Army Air Field's own fire department that was heavily involved in the crash recovery and clean-up process, Smith said. The RAAF firefighters were the ones who "knew the most" about what happened.

Smith also told Bragalia that the Roswell City Manager in 1947, C.M. Woodbury, later visited the fire department and, in a very forceful manner, ordered all firefighters to say absolutely nothing about the UFO crash north of town. Woodbury, according to Bragalia's research, was a very tough and intimidating former military man, attaining the rank of general, and he was also a close friend of William "Butch" Blanchard, commander of the Roswell Army Air Field.

Roswell's Fire Station #1, located at 200 South Richardson, was built in 1957 on the very same site as the 1947 Fire Station. When visiting the station, you are standing at the very place where a New Mexico state trooper showed Frankie Rowe and a group of Roswell firefighters pieces of the UFO crash debris, and this is also the place where both an Army colonel and the Roswell City Manager told the firemen never to tell anyone about the crashed UFO. If you would like to call before visiting the fire station, the number is (505) 624-6700. During your visit, keep in mind that this is an emergency facility, subject to immediate dispatches. Park only in designated areas and remain always aware of emergency vehicles.



Fire Station near Intersection of 1st St. & Richardson Ave.

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ROSWELL POLICE STATION

Status: Building still standing.
Location: Roswell City Hall, 425 N. Richardson Avenue
Accessibility: City government building.

Upon arriving at the scene north of town where the UFO actually crashed and bodies were found, Fireman Dan Dwyer noticed a number of Roswell police officers already at the site. “The military had already arrived … as had some of the city of Roswell police officers. There were also some state police at the site…. It wasn’t clear whether they just guarded access to the site or helped clean the field.” [Randle & Schmitt, p. 20]

It has also been reported that city police officers were later summoned to assist the military police at the Roswell Army Air Field in securing the area around Building 84, where bodies from the crashed UFO were reportedly taken. The presence of city police outside the hangar has been documented based on eyewitness testimonies compiled by a number of researchers, including Billy Booth of *ufos.about.com*.

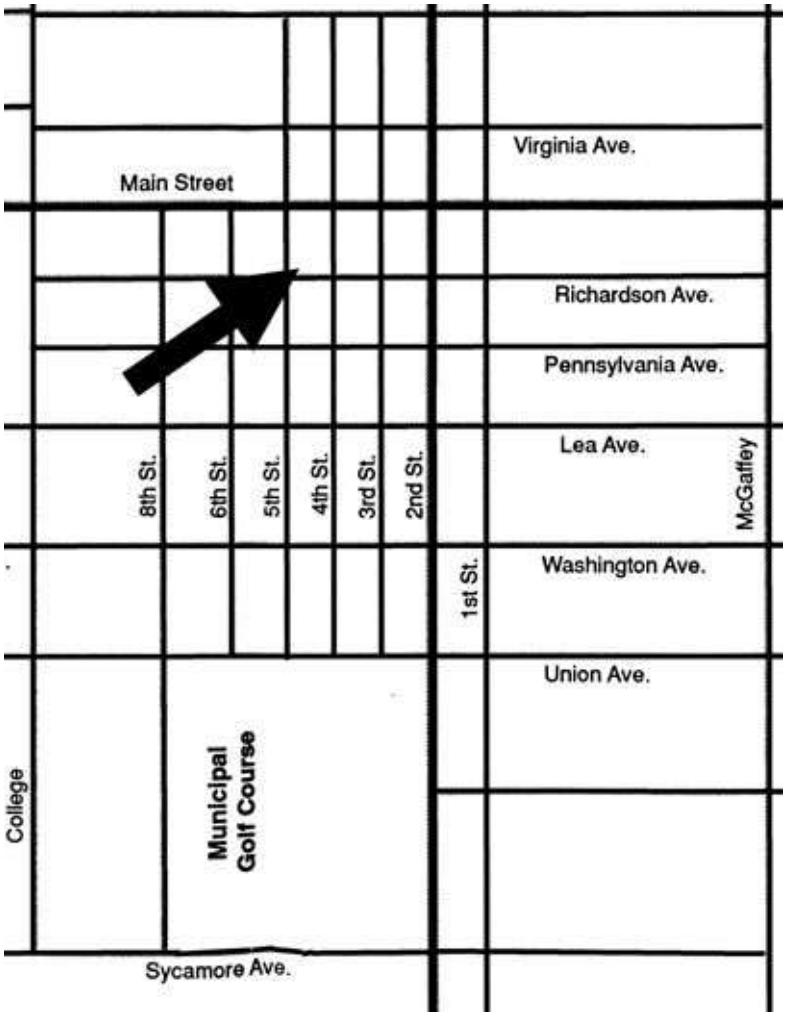
In 1993, L. M. Hall, who was a Roswell police officer in 1947, came forward to give an affidavit of his involvement in the strange events of July 1947. Although he was not involved in any of the aforementioned activities at the crash site or at Building 84, he did overhear the local mortician state that the Army had requested several small caskets – the kind used for babies.

Hall said in his affidavit, “I came to Roswell, New Mexico, in 1943, while serving in the Army Air Force. I was a military policeman and investigator at Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF). In 1946, after being discharged from the service, I joined the Roswell Police Department, and in 1964 I was appointed chief of police, serving for 14 and a half years. I am now a member of the Roswell City Council.

Roswell City Hall, Location of 1947 Police Department
(Photo by E.J. Wilson)

"In 1947, I was a motorcycle officer, with patrol duty on South Main Street, between town and RAAF. I and other police officers would often take our breaks in the small lounge at the Ballard Funeral Home at 910 South Main, where Glenn Dennis worked. I had gotten to know Glenn when I was a base MP because he made ambulance calls to the base under a contract Ballard's had, so I would sometimes have coffee with him if he was at work when I stopped in.

"One day in July 1947, I was at Ballard's on a break, and Glenn and I were in the driveway 'batting the breeze.' I was sitting on my motorcycle, and Glenn stood nearby. He remarked, 'I had a funny call from the base. They wanted to know if we had several baby caskets.' Then he started laughing and said, 'I asked what for, and they said they wanted to bury [or ship] those aliens,' something to that effect. I thought it was one of those 'gotcha' jokes, so I didn't bite. He never said anything else about it, and I didn't either.


Main Street
Virginia Ave.
Richardson Ave.
Pennsylvania Ave.
Lea Ave.
McGaffey
8th St.
6th St.
5th St.
4th St.
3rd St.
2nd St.
1st St.
Washington Ave.
Union Ave.
College
Municipal
Golf Course
Sycamore Ave.

The 1947 Roswell Police Department was Housed in What Is Still City Hall

(Near 5th St. & Richardson.)

"I believe our conversation took place couple of days after the stories about a crashed flying saucer appeared in the Roswell papers."

According to author Lynn Michelsohn, the Roswell Police Department in 1947 was housed in the building that is still used as City Hall, located at 425 North Richardson Avenue. The building was constructed in 1937 from designs by architect C. R. Carr and partners. As you visit this location, think about the stories of city policemen visiting the Roswell UFO crash site and later helping with security around Building 84. Why did none of them ever come forward and give testimony about their bizarre experience? Perhaps they were kept in the dark by the military as to the exact nature of their assignment on that fateful July in 1947.

Another View of Roswell City Hall (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Status: Demolished in 1996. Stood just east of the courthouse.
Location: 442 North Main Street
Accessibility: Chaves County government property.

The former Chaves County Sheriff's office and jail, which was built as an annex to the Chaves County Courthouse (on the east side) was demolished in 1996. However, by standing just east of the courthouse, visitors can still be at the very location where Sheriff Wilcox heard ranch Mack Brazel tell his amazing story of finding wreckage from an unidentified flying object.

County Jail and Sheriff's Office in the 1940s (Courtesy of HSSNM)

When Brazel came to town after finding the debris at the ranch he stopped by Sheriff Wilcox's office, to see if he might know what the debris was. Not able to identify it, Sheriff Wilcox contacted the military at the RAAF and talked to Intelligence Officer Major Marcel. Some of the debris was hidden at the jail

house but later confiscated by the military. However, the most shocking part of the story is what Sheriff Wilcox experienced after Brazel's visit. In a 1995 affidavit, Wilcox's granddaughter, Barbara Dugger, stated, "My grandfather went out there to the [final impact] site; it was in the evening. There was a big burned area, and he saw debris. He also saw four 'space beings.' One of the little men was alive. Their heads were large. They wore suits like silk."

Sheriff George Wilcox (Courtesy of Kevin D. Randle)

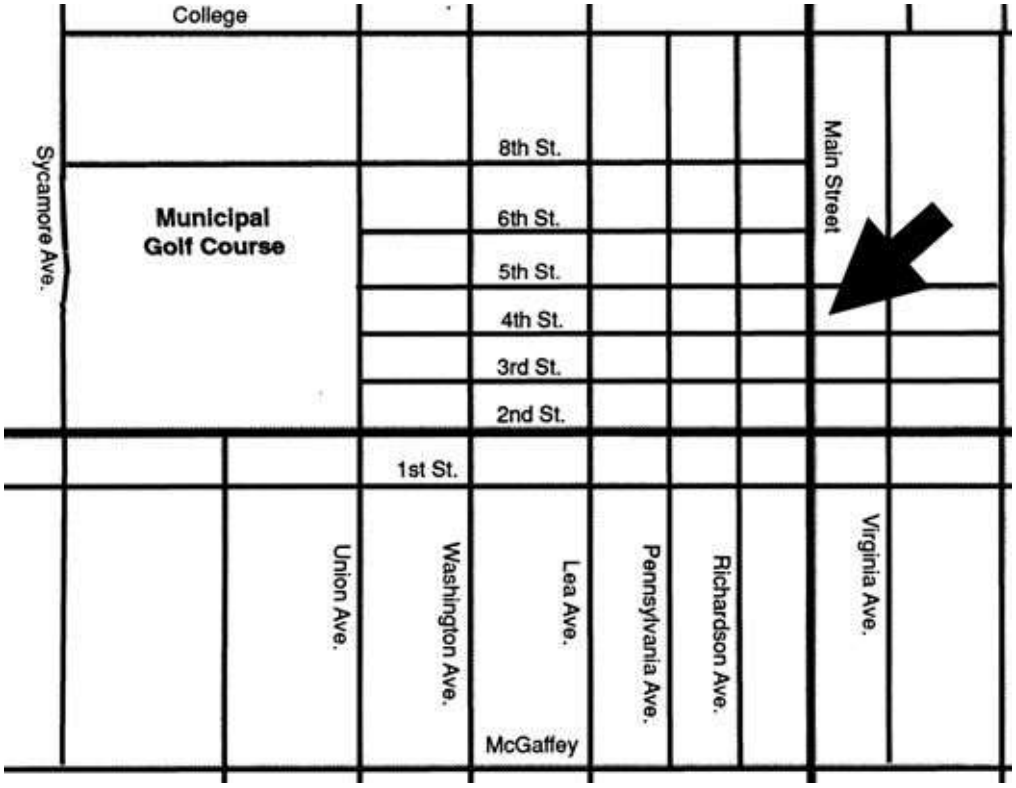
In a 1992 interview with Stanton Friedman, Dugger first revealed that the sheriff himself visited the final impact site north of Roswell and saw both wreckage and bodies. Dugger heard the story from her grandmother, Inez Wilcox, the sheriff's wife. Dugger said, "One evening we were watching TV, and on TV was something about space. And my grandmother looked over at me and said, 'Barbara, do you believe in anything, you know, outside the Earth,' and I said, 'You know I do.'" Then, Inez Wilcox told her, "Well, I have something that I'd really like to tell you tonight, but I never want you to discuss it or tell anybody. In the forties, there was a spacecraft, or flying saucer is what she called it, crashed outside of Roswell." When Dugger asked her how she knew, Mrs. Wilcox replied, "Your grandfather George was the sheriff at the time."

Inez Wilcox then explained to Dugger how the sheriff became involved in the Roswell Incident. “Someone came and told my grandfather of this incident that happened outside of Roswell. My grandmother said that my grandfather went out there to the site. When he got there, there was a big burned area, a crashed area, and then they saw debris -- he saw debris.”

East Side of Chaves County Courthouse (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

When Dugger jokingly asked if Sheriff Wilcox had seen any space creatures, Inez replied with seriousness, “Yes, there were four of them… They were like gray, and granddaddy said their heads were large. And the little suits they had on were like silk or something.” One of the creatures was still alive, according to Dugger. After witnessing this scene, the Sheriff returned to Roswell, armed with the notion of telling others, including reporters, about the amazing things he had seen. But, according to Mrs. Wilcox, the sheriff was quickly set straight by the military. “When the incident happened, the military police came to the courthouse, to the jail house, and told George and I that if we ever told anything about this incident – talked about it in any way that not only we would be killed but the family – they would get the rest of the family.”

According to Dugger, Wilcox was never the same after the Roswell Incident. He was shocked by what happened and lived in fear afterward. He expressed no desire to run for re-election as sheriff, and, in fact, Inez Wilcox ran in his place but was defeated. The Wilcox family was indeed deeply scarred by the events of July 1947.



Present Courthouse Site (4th & Main)

Behind the present-day Chaves County Courthouse stood the L-shaped jailhouse and sheriff's office in 1947. It was here that some of the mysterious debris from the Foster Ranch was kept for a short while. It was also here that Sheriff George Wilcox started a firestorm by contacting the U.S. Army about Mack Brazel's amazing find out at his ranch. It was also here that military police confronted Wilcox and silenced him by threatening both his life and lives of his family members.

Sheriff Wilcox's old office was, unfortunately, demolished in 1996, along with the old jail. However, one can still go and visit the east side of the courthouse and view the location where the building used to be. Standing there in the east parking lot of the courthouse, we can close our eyes and imagine what it must have been like for Sheriff Wilcox when Brazel first came in with his jaw-dropping tale of strange metallic debris that fell out of the sky onto his ranch and the agonizing days and nights Wilcox spent here thinking about what he himself saw out at the crash site.

The east side parking lot is most easily accessed after normal work hours and

on weekends. During these times, visitors will not have to contend with the crowds, traffic, and full parking lots that are common during the workday.

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ROSWELL DAILY RECORD

Status: Original building demolished in 1997 to clear land for Pioneer Plaza.
Location: 424 North Main Street
Accessibility: City government property. Public access allowed.

For Americans in the 1940s, newspapers were the last word when it came to the news. Until they saw an item printed in the local newspaper, they did not really believe it. According to the Newspaper Association of America, there were 1,769 daily newspapers in the U.S. in 1947, two of which were published in Roswell, New Mexico – the *Roswell Daily Record* and the *Roswell Morning Dispatch*. Although both papers reported on the UFO crash, the *Daily Record*, which published an evening paper, had the advantage of chance timing when the news broke about a recovered UFO north of town.

Roswell Daily Record

RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region

Claims Army Is Stacking Courts Martial

House Passes Tax Slash by Large Margin

Security Council Paves Way to Talks On Arms Reductions

No Details of Flying Disk Are Revealed

Ex-King Carol Weds Mme. Lupescu

Some of Soviet Satellites May Attend Paris Meeting

Roswellians Have Differing Opinions On Flying Saucers

American League Wins All-Star Game

Miners and Operators Sign Highest Wage Pact in History

Front Page for July 8, 1947 (Wikimedia.org)

On the evening of July 8, the *Daily Record* screamed the headline "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region." The story was based on a press release written by Roswell Army Air Field public information officer Lieutenant Walter Haut. Many years later, Haut stated that the story was an attempt by the military to use the wreckage found at the Foster Ranch as a means to divert attention away from the "second" crash location where the UFO actually went down and bodies were found, some miles away from the Foster Ranch.

Walter G. Haut from 1946 RAAF Yearbook
(Courtesy of HSSNM)

The newspaper article stated, “The intelligence office of the 509th Bombardment group at Roswell Army Field announced at noon today, that the field has come into possession of a flying saucer. According to information released by the department, over authority of Maj. J. A. Marcel, intelligence officer, the disk was recovered on a ranch in the Roswell vicinity, after an unidentified rancher had notified Sheriff Geo. Wilcox, here, that he had found the instrument on his premises.

“Major Marcel and a detail from his department went to the ranch and recovered the disk, it was stated. After the intelligence officer here had inspected the instrument it was flown to higher headquarters. The intelligence office stated that no details of the saucer's construction or its appearance had been revealed.”

The article then went on to tell the story of the UFO sighting made by Dan Wilmot and his wife a week earlier. The inclusion of the Wilmot sighting was an apparent attempt by the paper to locate any Roswell residents who might have seen something strange in the skies above town in the same time period.

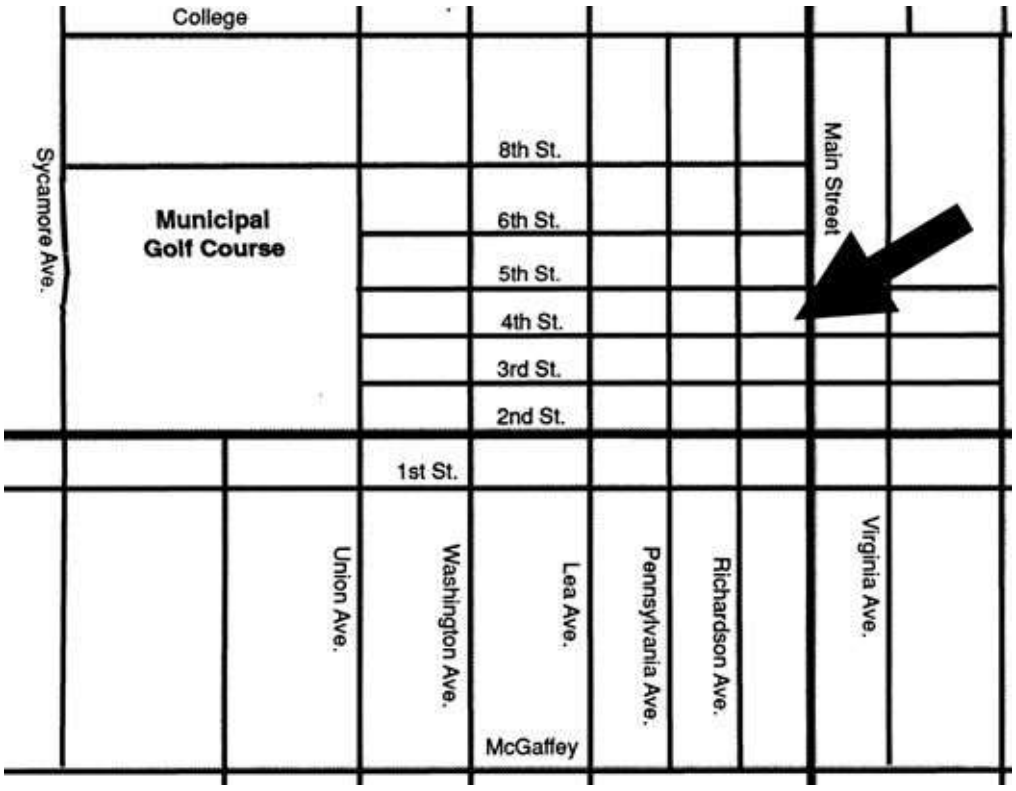
Pioneer Plaza, Where the Roswell Daily Record Building Once Stood
(Photo by E.J. Wilson)

In a 1993 affidavit, Haut explained what went on behind the scenes prior to the release of the story that later appeared on the front page of the *Roswell Daily Record*. He said, "At approximately 9:30 a.m. on July 8, I received a call from Col. William Blanchard, the base commander, who said he had in his possession a flying saucer or parts thereof. He said it came from a ranch northwest of Roswell, and that the base Intelligence Officer, Major Jesse Marcel, was going to fly the material to Fort Worth." This brief statement by Haut spoke volumes about the logistics of the Roswell crash recovery operation, showing that a plan was already in motion that would slam the lid of secrecy on the whole affair.

OFFICIAL SCENIC HISTORIC MARKER
ROSWELL
PIONEER PLAZA
This plaza incorporates two of downtown Roswell's most historic buildings. East of this location is the Chaves County Courthouse, built in 1911. It is one of the best surviving examples of courthouses built in the Beaux Arts Revival "monumental civic style" architecture. The nearby, Conoco service station was built in the 1920s. It is one of the few remaining architecturally intact gasoline stations from this early period of New Mexico's transportation history.

Historical Marker Stands near Former Site of the Roswell Daily Record
(Photo by E.J. Wilson)

"I believe Col. Blanchard saw the material, because he sounded positive about what the material was. There is no chance that he would have mistaken it for a weather balloon. Neither is their any chance that Major Marcel would have been mistaken…. I am convinced that the material recovered was some type of craft from outer space."



Former Location of the Roswell Daily Record, Near Intersection of Main and 5th

In 2002, Haut signed another affidavit, which remained sealed until his death in 2005. This second statement gave much more detail about the UFO incident. In it, Haut said, "I was aware that someone had reported the remains of a downed vehicle by midmorning after my return to duty at the base on Monday, July 7. I was aware that Major Jesse A. Marcel, head of intelligence, was sent by the base commander, Col. William Blanchard, to investigate."

The 2002 affidavit mentions for the first time what UFO investigators had long suspected – that there was a second crash site (other than the Foster Ranch) and that the military was doing everything possible to divert attention from the second crash site by overstating the importance of the debris found at the Foster Ranch.

"By late in the afternoon that same day, I would learn that additional civilian reports came in regarding a second site just north of Roswell," Haut said.

At a staff meeting early on July 8, attended by Haut and other Roswell officers, as well as visiting Army officials, it was decided that "attention needed to be diverted from the more important site north of town by acknowledging the other location (Foster Ranch). Too many civilians were already involved and the press already was informed."

Newspaper Building Was Just Left of This Former Conoco Station
(Photo by E.J. Wilson)

It was then that Colonel Blanchard dictated a press release to Haut, which he was directed to distribute to the two local newspapers and the two local radio stations. The Roswell cover-up was officially underway, researchers claim.

When visiting Pioneer Plaza, where the *Daily Record* building once stood, look to the northern part of the plaza. The newspaper's offices were there at 424 N. Main Street, right next to the former Conoco Service Station, which still stands at 426 N. Main Street. The former service station is now a visitor center.

For the research oriented, all *Roswell Daily Record* newspapers from July 1947 (and many other dates) are available on microfilm at the Roswell Public Library, at 301 N. Pennsylvania Avenue. Call the library for their hours and additional information, 575-622-7101, or visit *www.roswellpubliclibrary.org*.

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KGFL RADIO STATION

Status: Building still stands but is now a business called Elegante Hair Salon.
Location: 310 North Richardson Avenue
Accessibility: Business – open to the public.

KGFL (*Keep Good Folks Listening*), 1400 AM, was a Roswell radio station that became highly involved in the 1947 UFO incident. The story of small humanoid bodies having been recovered in the Roswell UFO crash first came to light at this historic location. The building that once housed KGFL is now a private business called Elegante Hair Salon, located at the intersection of 3rd Street and North Richardson Avenue.

Radio Station KGFL in the 1940s (Courtesy of HSSNM)

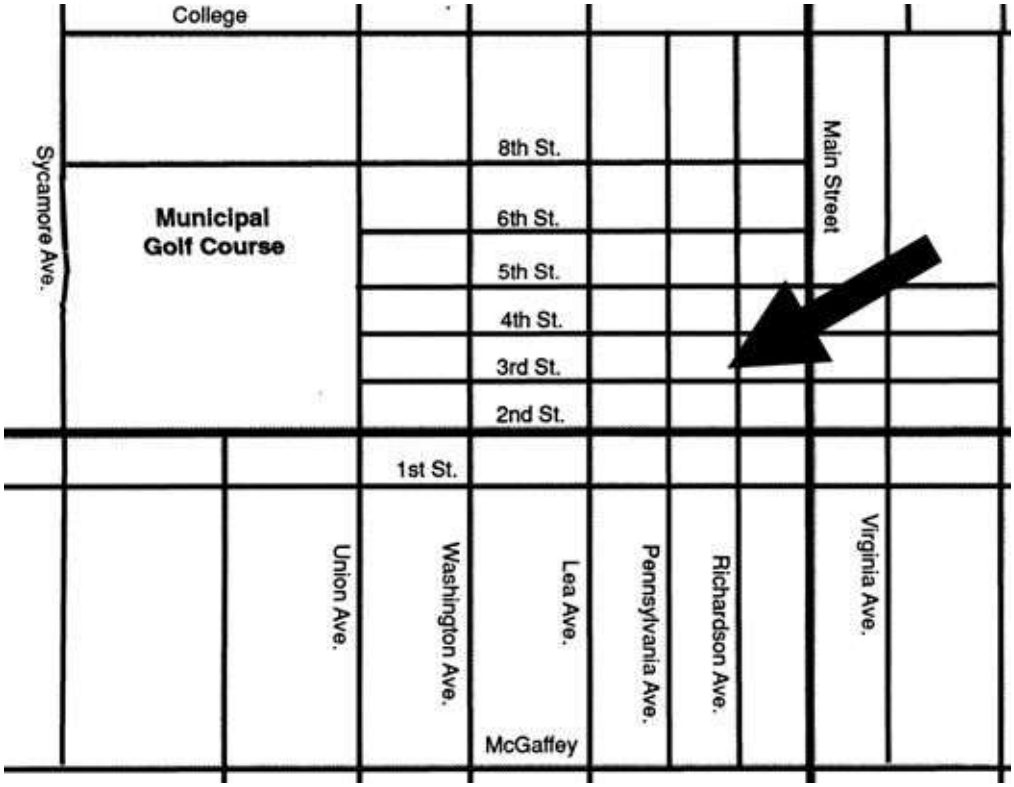
On July 6, 1947, KGFL radio announcer Frank Joyce received a phone call from distraught rancher W.W. “Mack” Brazel, who told Joyce an amazing story about strange metallic debris that had rained down upon his ranch and about some foul-smelling bodies that he had discovered. Brazel referred to the bodies as “little people” and told Joyce, “They’re not monkeys, and they’re not human!”

Rancher W.W. "Mack" Brazel in 1947 (Courtesy of HSSNM and the Roswell Daily Record)

When Brazel asked Joyce what he should do about the strange things he found on his ranch, Joyce suggested that he contact the Roswell Army Air Field. On the following day, KGFL station owner Walt Whitmore, Sr. arranged to have Brazel brought into town for an exclusive radio interview about his strange find. The interview was conducted on the evening of July 7 at Whitmore's Roswell home, as described in chapter 13.

Meanwhile, on July 8, Roswell Army Air Field Lieutenant Walter Haut stopped by KGFL to deliver the famous "crashed disk" press release, as stated in a 1993 affidavit about the case: "Col. Blanchard told me to write a news release about the operation and to deliver it to both newspapers and the two radio stations in Roswell. He felt that he wanted the local media to have the first opportunity at the story. I went first to KGFL, then to KSWS, then to the Daily Record and finally to the Morning Dispatch."

Upon arriving at KGFL, Haut delivered the press release to Frank Joyce. Joyce later told the *Albuquerque Journal*, "He [Haut] comes clumping in and he says, 'Here's your story.' And he's practically going out the door. So I grab the story and I see immediately and it says 'U.S. Army Air Corps has a flying saucer.' And I say, 'Hey, wait a minute. I don't know whether you want to run this.' He said, 'The story is OK.'



KGFL Site is Near Intersection of 3rd St. & Richardson Ave. (Elegante Hair Salon)

"I ran out the door and ran down the block. In 40 seconds I was to Western Union. I said, 'Send this immediately.' She sent it to Santa Fe, bang, just like that. I waited long enough for her to send it and then grabbed the copy and brought it back with me. Went back to the station. The phone rang and it's Santa Fe bureau, United Press, saying what about this story?

'Then the flash came on, which was five bells. Bing, bing, bing, bing, bing. 'Here it comes,' I said, 'Now all hell is going to break loose.' The phone started ringing. I took the story off the wire and read it (on the air) as a bulletin a couple of times."

Former Site of KGFL Radio Station (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Some days later, W.W. "Mack" Brazel was brought to KGFL under military escort to revise his earlier story of what he saw out at the Foster Ranch. With the soldiers guarding him standing nearby, Brazel told Joyce that what he saw must have been a weather balloon, as the military insisted. Joyce objected to the substantial changes Brazel was making in his original story and said, "The story is different, especially about the little green men." Brazel responded, almost without thinking, "*They weren't green.*" Brazel's statements about seeing strange bodies have become a cornerstone of the Roswell UFO mystery, because previous to the surfacing of these statements, it was believed that Brazel had seen only metallic debris out at his ranch.

When visiting the former KGFL building at 310 North Richardson Avenue, reflect on the important events that took place here. According to Frank Joyce, inside this building Mack Brazel twice referred to finding bodies along with the debris at the Foster Ranch. Brazel described the bodies as being "little" and "not green," and, according to Joyce, he said that they were definitely not humans or monkeys.

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KSWS RADIO STATION

Status: Building still stands. Now a Schlotzky's Deli restaurant.
Location: 401 N. Richardson Avenue
Accessibility: Restaurant – open to the public.

On July 8, 1947, Lieutenant Walter Haut's second stop while delivering copies of the famous "flying disk" press release was at Roswell AM radio station, KSWS, as he would later testify, "I went first to KGFL, then to KSWS …."

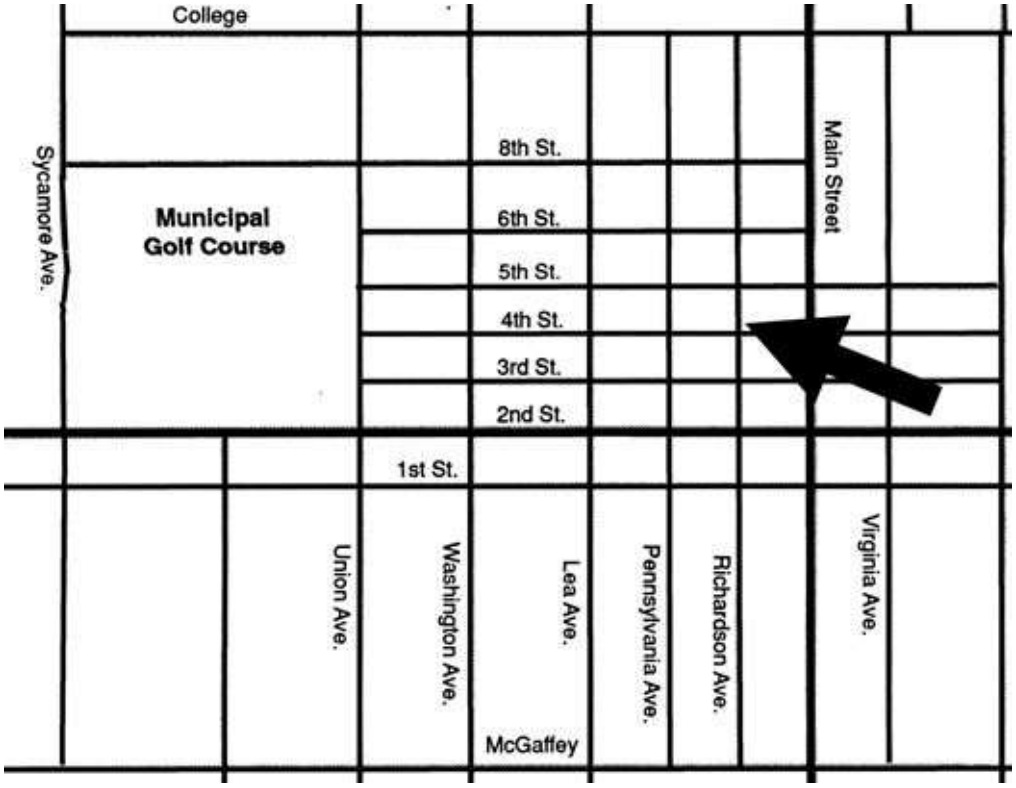
According to Randle and Schmitt, two days before Haut arrived with the press release, KSWS general manager and part-owner John McBoyle had already been out to the site where the UFO crashed, which he described as being 40 miles north of Roswell, and had seen an object that looked "like a crushed dishpan." McBoyle said the object was 25 to 30 feet long and was impacted into a slope. Stunned by what he saw, McBoyle immediately contacted KOAT, the parent radio station in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to report his discovery.

Typical 1940s Radio Equipment, Displayed at Roswell UFO Museum
(Photo by Noe Torres)

McBoyle's story first came to light in 1993 when an affidavit was filed by Linda Sleppy, who worked at KOAT when the call came in. She said, "In 1947, I worked at KOAT Radio in Albuquerque, New Mexico. My duties included

operating the station's teletype machine, which received news and allowed us to send stories to the ABC and Mutual networks, with which KOAT was affiliated.

She went on to tell of the frantic phone call she received from McBoyle regarding the crash of an unknown object on a ranch north of Roswell. "McBoyle said he had something hot for the network…. Using the teletype, I alerted ABC News headquarters in Hollywood to expect an important story …."


College
Sycamore Ave.
Municipal
Golf Course
8th St.
6th St.
5th St.
4th St.
3rd St.
2nd St.
1st St.
Main Street
Union Ave.
Washington Ave.
Lea Ave.
McGaffey
Pennsylvania Ave.
Richardson Ave.
Virginia Ave.

Sleppy recalled that McBoyle told her, "There's been one of these flying saucer things crash down here north of Roswell." McBoyle added that he had been taking his midmorning break in a Roswell coffee shop when he saw Mack Brazel come in and tell of finding a strange object while he was out riding on the ranch. Brazel offered to take McBoyle to the ranch to see the object.

Sleppy stated in her affidavit, "As I typed McBoyle's story, a bell rang on the teletype, indicating an interruption. The machine then printed a message something to this effect: 'THIS IS THE FBI. YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY CEASE ALL COMMUNICATION.' Whatever the precise words were, I definitely remember the message was from the FBI and that it directed me to stop transmitting."

The building that was formerly KSWS is now an excellent delicatessen called Schlotzky's Deli, at 401 N. Richardson Ave. As you munch on a tasty and filling *Schlotzky's Original* sandwich, think about what it must have been like here in July 1947, as the news arrived that something out of this world had crashed just north of Roswell.

Former Location of Radio Station KSWS (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

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ROSWELL MORNING DISPATCH

Status: Still standing. Now the Gift Shop adjacent to UFO Museum.
Location: 114 North Main Street
Accessibility: Business – open to the public.

The famous press release about the RAAF capturing a flying saucer was delivered to the *Roswell Morning Dispatch* offices by Walter Haut on Tuesday, July 8, 1947. It was the last local media outlet to receive a copy of the report, as Haut had already taken copies to KGFL, KSWS, and the *Roswell Record*.

ROSWELL MORNING DISPATCH

Army Debunks Roswell Flying Disk As World Simmers With Excitement

American Leaguers Eke 2-1 Victory From National Stars

Lewis' Miners Return To Pits With Fat Raises

Thirteen Nations Accept Bids To Econ Aid Talks

Reds Blame US Britain For Greek Situation

Officers Say Disk Is Weather Balloon

SHERIFF WILCOX FEELS THE LIMEYS

OBJECT FOUND ON FOSTER RANCH CAUSES EXCITEMENT

Front Page from July 9, 1947(Univ. of New Mexico – Albuquerque)

The *Morning Dispatch*, owned by the Dispatch Publishing Company of Roswell, was published daily, except Monday, from October 2, 1928 until March 31, 1950. The newspaper was housed in the small building that is now the gift shop of the *International UFO Museum and Research Center* at 114 North Main Street. It is interesting to note that the *Morning Dispatch* ceased publication less than one year after the Roswell UFO incident, and its operations were absorbed by the *Daily Record*. Is it possible that the newspaper succumbed to pressure over its investigation of the event? Nobody knows for certain. Did the paper perhaps try to delve deeper into the mystery than what the government was comfortable with?

Below is the *Dispatch*'s headline story announcing the crashed UFO, titled "Flying Disk Transforms Sheriff's Office to International Newsroom," from July 9, 1947:

"Reports of the finding of an alleged 'Flying Saucer' approximately 90 miles northwest of here transformed the Chaves county sheriff's office into a full-fledged room of excitement yesterday afternoon as various news agencies from all over the world inquired as to the mysterious object.

"George Wilcox, sheriff, was chained through his desk telephone to newspapers, radio networks, and top officials on an international scope as the long distance wires buzzed with continuous requests for his office.

"The furor started Monday when W. W. Brazel, a rancher living on the old Foster place, 25 miles southeast of Corona, New Mexico, came in the office and reported finding an object which fitted the descriptions of the flying discs. Deputy Sheriff B. A. Clark, who handled the report, immediately notified Sheriff Wilcox, who in turn turned his information over to Army authorities at RAAF.

"According to Mr. Brazel, the object had the shape of a box kite. It was broken in two. The size of the alleged disc was, contrary to previous descriptions, rectangular, and measured approximately three feet by four feet.

"Major Jesse A. Marcel of the 509th Bomb Group Intelligence and an Army crew immediately went to the ranch and picked up the object. No member of the local sheriff's office saw the article at any time. Army sources did not divulge any description either of the outside or internal appearance of the disc.

"Following the news release of the report, Sheriff Wilcox was the object of a storm of inquiries from papers in San Francisco, Boston, Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans, Baltimore, St. Louis, Denver, Albuquerque, Milwaukee,

Santa Fe, Chicago, Washington, and Mexico City. The longest call came from London, England where the London Daily Mail and other newspapers desired information.

UFO Gift Shop Entrance on Left is the Former Site of Morning Dispatch Newspaper (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

"The major radio networks, including N.B.C., C.B.S., Trans Radio, plus the Associated and United Press and International News Service also contacted Wilcox. Others in the cavalcade were Paramount News and International News Photo.

"The stream of calls continued to such an extent that the placing of outgoing messages was almost impossible. If by chance the phone ceased ringing for time enough to pick it up, the operator would immediately ask whether or not it was the sheriff's office, and then state that there was another long distance call coming through.

"The London operator, with the very pronounced 'H's' and the 'rather' presented a translation problem to the sheriff, and the strong contrast between the Western drawl and the English twang was both interesting and amusing.

"In response to various queries, Sheriff Wilcox could only state the location of the spot where the object was found and the name of the person finding it. Any descriptions other than its reported size were not available."

The managing editor of the *Morning Dispatch* in 1947 was Arthur R. McQuiddy, who later gave a sworn affidavit regarding what he knew about the

Roswell UFO crash: “In July 1947, I was editor of the *Roswell Morning Dispatch*, one of the two newspapers here at the time. In 1948, I left the paper to become public relations director of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association and later joined U.S. Steel as director of media relations. About eleven years ago I returned to Roswell after retiring as senior vice president for corporate relations at International Harvester.

“Just before noon one day early in July 1947, Walter Haut, the public relations officer at Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF), brought a press release to me in the Dispatch office. The release said a crashed flying saucer had been found, taken to RAAF, and sent on to another base.

“Haut had been to the two local radio stations, KGFL and KSWS, before coming to the *Dispatch*, so I gave him a bad time about that. Haut said the base policy was to rotate who got releases first to make sure everyone got a fair shake. We were a morning paper, so our edition for that day had long since hit the street, but I was disappointed at not being able to break the story on the Associated Press wire. George Walsh, the program manager at KSWS, had already moved the story on AP.

“Not long after Haut left, a call came from RAAF. The caller said the release was incorrect, that what had been though to be the wreckage of a flying saucer was actually the remains of a radiosonde balloon. However, the AP wire story had gotten the world's attention. I spent the rest of the afternoon taking long distance calls from overseas news editors. I remember calls from Rome, London, Paris, and Hong Kong.

“Colonel William H. (‘Butch’) Blanchard, commander of RAAF and its 509th Bomb Group, was a good friend of mine. We often got together for a drink and off the record discussions of base-town relations and the like. After the flying saucer incident, I tried several times to get Blanchard to tell me the real story, but he repeatedly refused to talk about it.

The Morning Dispatch Building is now the UFO Museum Gift Shop at 1st & Main

"About three or four months after the event, when we were a bit more 'relaxed' than usual, I tried again. Blanchard reluctantly admitted he had authorized the press release. Then, as best I remember, he said, 'I will tell you this and nothing more. The stuff I saw, I've never seen anyplace else in my life.' That was all he would say, and he never told me anything else about the matter."

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PLAINS THEATER / UFO MUSEUM

Status: Still standing and is now the Roswell UFO Museum.
Location: 114 North Main Street
Accessibility: Business – open to the public (admission).

Next door to the former offices of the *Roswell Morning Dispatch* newspaper is the Roswell UFO Museum, whose official title is *International UFO Museum and Research Center*. The museum is housed in the former Plains Theater, built in 1946, and as such shares a historic connection to the time of the Roswell UFO incident. The UFO Museum, which opened in the old theater in 1997, will soon be moving to a much larger and more elegant facility eight blocks farther north on Main Street.

1947 Photo of the Plains Theater (Courtesy of HSSNM)

During the time of the Roswell Incident, the theater had been open less than a year. Designed by architect Jack Corgan for a company called Theater Enterprises, it was built of reinforced concrete and featured 1,000 seats on the main floor with an additional 30 seats for "colored patrons" located off to one side of the projection booth. The theater was done in an "art moderne" style and its exterior was adorned with an elegant vertical sign and a triangle marquee. Theater patrons in 1947 would have included servicemen stationed at the Roswell Army Air Field. Not only were the soldiers frequent patrons at Roswell's six movie houses, but they occasionally even worked part-time there during the evening hours.

Roswell UFO Museum (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

In July 1947, of Roswell's six indoor movie theaters, the Plains Theater was easily the newest and most popular of them all. The others were: the Yucca, the Chief, the Trieb, the Chavez, and the Pecos.

During the week ending July 9, the Plains Theater was showing the Western "Cheyenne," starring Dennis Morgan and Jane Wyman. Morgan played a

gambler who agreed to try to catch a mysterious stage coach robber known only as “The Poet.” No Hollywood plot, however, could come close to the shocking events that were about to unfold in the quiet town of Roswell. In a story beyond belief, the reported crash of a UFO north of town was about to set off a ripple effect that would continue for decades to come.

And so, eventually, the Plains Theater became the International UFO Museum and Research Center. Founded as a non-profit organization in 1991 by two men deeply involved in the Roswell Incident, Walter Haut and Glenn Dennis, the museum opened to the public in 1992. It was housed at two different downtown locations before moving to the old Plains Theater in 1997. The museum was an immediate success and now hosts close to 200,000 visitors per year. It was named “Top Tourist Destination of New Mexico” by the Tourism Association of New Mexico in 1996 and also “New Mexico’s “Main Street Business of the Year” in 2003. Another high honor came in 2003, when Roswell, including its famous museum, was listed in Patricia Schultz’s bestselling book, *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*.

Another View of the UFO Museum (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

In 1995, the museum held Roswell’s very first UFO Festival during the first week of July in commemoration of the July 1947 Roswell Incident. The festival was another smashing success for the museum, and two years later, 50,000 people showed up for the 1997 festival. Suddenly, Roswell residents, many of who were uninformed or apathetic about the famous UFO incident, began viewing the annual festival as a win-win situation for the city. Recognizing opportunities to revitalize the town’s sagging economy, local officials locked on to the suddenly-explosive “UFO tourism” business. Hoping to capitalize on the museum’s success, the city began supplementing the museum festival events

with city-sponsored special events throughout Roswell.

The *International UFO Museum and Research Center* is open daily, usually from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and adult admission is around $5. For the most current information about hours, admission fees, and upcoming special events, please call 1-800-822-3545 (toll-free worldwide) or visit the museum's excellent Web site, roswellufomuseum.com. The museum also offers self-guided audio tours – just ask at the front desk.

The main floor of the museum features a large area of exhibits related to the Roswell Incident, and consisting of photographs, newspaper clippings, artifacts, dioramas, models, and other items. One of the most eye-catching exhibits is a recreation of the "alien autopsy" scene from *Roswell*, the 1994 *Showtime* original motion picture produced by Paul Davids. The exhibit contains actual props from the movie, including an extremely realistic-looking dead alien being.

Other exhibits focus on the UFO phenomenon in general, with displays on topics such as crop circles, Area 51, interstellar travel, the Lubbock Lights, and so on. For museum visitors to fully benefit from their visit, they will need time to slowly wind around the museum and spend a lot of time reading textual matter in the displays. Given the museum's steadfast thesis that UFOs are real, its exhibits are research-oriented and content-rich, rather than being strictly "visual" or entertainment-oriented. Since lot of reading, thinking, and digesting of information is required, you should allow at least two hours, and possibly four, to fully appreciate this incredible storehouse of UFO information.

In addition to the wealth of exhibits on the main floor, the museum also boasts a large library featuring an extensive collection of UFO-related books and other materials. The library is a boon to everyone wanting to delve further into the Roswell Incident or into almost any topic related to UFOs and the paranormal.

Exploration of the UFO museum is an absolute necessity for everyone following the touring plan in this book. We recommend visiting the museum as your last stop, after having visited all the key locations related to the Roswell Incident. Plan to spend at least four hours browsing the displays. Although we recommend visiting the museum last, some readers may prefer to "do their homework" first, in preparation for their touring – and this is certainly fine, too.

As of this writing, the UFO museum is planning to move to a new facility about eight blocks farther north on Main Street, possibly as early as 2011. Expected to cost $27 million, the new complex will occupy a full city block of land and will include a hotel, theaters, restaurants, lecture halls, and many new exhibits. While the opening of this state-of-the-art museum is eagerly anticipated, fans of Roswell's history will miss their visits to the old Plains

Theater building.

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MILITARY CONVOY ROUTE

Status: Public road.
Location: Hwy 285 (S. Main St.) from north to south, through town.
Accessibility: Public roadway.

As you head south toward the old air base to continue your tour of the key Roswell sites, you will be retracing the route taken by a very strange military convoy that reportedly moved through town back in July 1947. According to a number of eyewitnesses, after the crashed UFO was recovered north of town by the military, it was put on a truck, covered with a tarp, and paraded right down the middle of town in broad daylight.

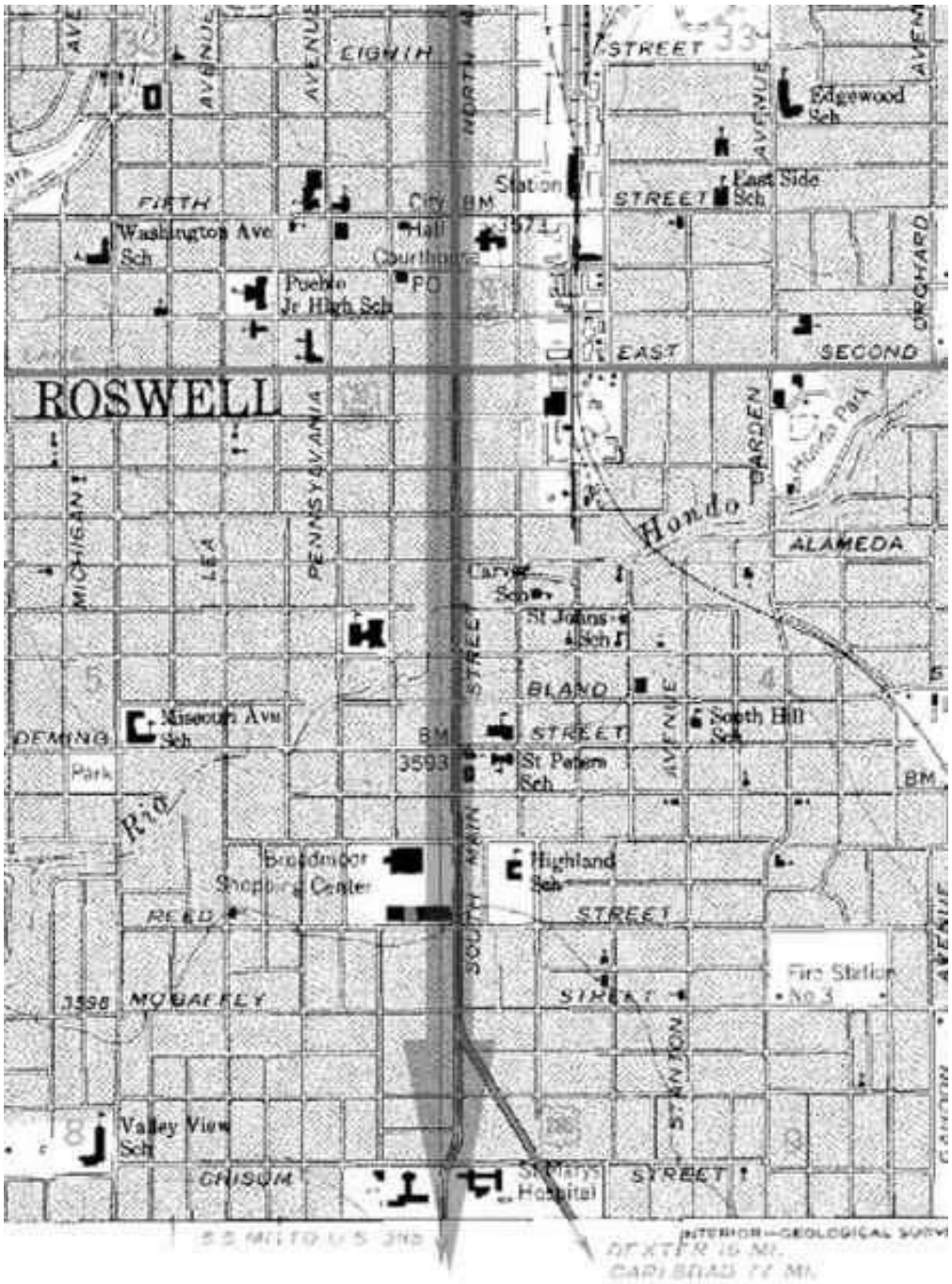
Roswell's Main Street in the 1940s (Courtesy of HSSNM)

From its crash location somewhere north of Roswell, the downed UFO was reportedly hoisted onto a U.S. Army flatbed trailer (called a “lowboy”), covered almost completely by a tarp, and then pulled by a tractor truck south on U.S. Highway 285, through the middle of Roswell. A number of jeeps carrying soldiers armed with machine guns accompanied the truck as it made its way through the town in broad daylight and on to Building 84 at the Roswell Army Air Field.

Though the strange object was covered by a tarp, some townspeople who watched the convoy pass by described the shape underneath the tarp as egg-shaped or conical, according to Carey and Schmitt. Another witness said the shape under the tarp looked like a Volkswagen Beetle. Yet another witness, who was in the middle of a roofing job as the convoy passed, claimed to have seen pieces of mangled metal on the flatbed trailer as well.

As you move south on Main Street, headed to the next touring sites, think about what it must have been like to witness that military convoy, carrying with it the strange tarp-covered object that some people say was a crashed UFO. It was most certainly an awe-inspiring site, especially since most of Roswell’s residents had already heard rumors that something very strange had crashed north of town and that the military was involved in retrieving the downed airship. Although it may seem strange that the military would choose to transport the UFO through the middle of town during daylight hours, researchers say that their options were very limited. Already a number of civilians had found out about the second crash location, where the main part of the craft and bodies had come down. Also, rumors of a crashed UFO were sweeping through town, putting pressure on the Army to act rapidly and decisively.

Given that military convoys were not an uncommon sight in Roswell, the decision was made to proceed with the transport by the quickest and most efficient route – straight through town. It was a dramatic and daring gamble, and yet, for the most part, it worked. Very few Roswell citizens took much notice of the strange early morning military procession down Main Street. Hiding the UFO “in plain sight,” ended up being a successful strategy for the U.S. Army.



Convoy Path through Town and On to RAAF

Interestingly, every Fourth of July, the city of Roswell holds a UFO parade down Main Street, starting at College Boulevard and heading south on Main. Floats and dioramas depict various scenes involving crashed saucers and “cute” looking aliens. While watching the odd assemblage of vehicles and floats pass by, one cannot help but find a strange irony in the fact that this was the actual route that was reportedly taken by the U.S. Army in 1947 when transporting the

crashed UFO to the Roswell Army Air Field.

This scenario reminds one of the so-called “cargo” cults of the South Pacific, where isolated islanders saw U.S. airplanes flying overhead during World War II. Because they had never before seen aircraft, they proceeded to build mock planes and incorporate them into their religious festivals. They built faux runways, control towers, planes, and electronic equipment in honor of the amazing flying machines and associated instruments that they saw the U.S. servicemen using. Is it possible that, confronted with technology that is light years beyond ours, Americans reacted in a manner similar to these cargo cults?

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BALLARD FUNERAL HOME

Status: Still standing.
Location: 910 South Main Street
Accessibility: Business (funeral home).

On a hot afternoon in July 1947, 22-year-old Glenn Dennis was working as an embalmer at the Ballard Funeral Home, which held a contract to provide mortuary services and ambulance services for the Roswell Army Air Field, when the phone suddenly rang, and he answered. In a 1991 affidavit, Dennis recalled, "One afternoon, around 1:15 or 1:30, I received a call from the base mortuary officer who asked what was the smallest size hermetically sealed casket that we had in stock. He said, 'We need to know this in case something comes up in the future.' He asked how long it would take to get one, and I assured him I could get one for him the following day. He said he would call back if they needed one."

Ballard Funeral Home (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Although the call seemed very strange, Dennis put it out of his mind and returned to his work at the funeral home. Within an hour, the phone rang again, and the same Army mortuary officer asked Dennis "to describe the preparation for bodies that had been lying out on the desert for a period of time." Dennis said, "Before I could answer, he said he specifically wanted to know what effect the preparation procedures would have on the body's chemical compounds, blood and tissues. I explained that our chemicals were mainly strong solutions of formaldehyde and water, and that the procedure would probably alter the body's chemical composition. I offered to come out to the base to assist with any problem he might have, but he reiterated that the information was for future use. I suggested that if he had such a situation that I would try to freeze the body in dry ice for storage and transportation."

Glenn Dennis

Once again the call ended and Dennis returned to his work, still puzzled by the strange requests from the air base. A little over an hour later, yet another call came in to him from the base. This time, the military requested that Dennis pick up a soldier that had been injured in a motorcycle accident in town. As instructed, Dennis took the injured soldier south of town to the Roswell Army Air Field hospital building. Upon arrival, he assisted the young man out of the ambulance and was helping him up the ramp toward the rear entrance of the hospital, when he became aware of strange activity going on there.

Another View of Ballard Funeral Home (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Located at Intersection of S. Main & Summit St. (BLM Map)

As Dennis passed a military ambulance with its back door open, he noticed that it contained a metallic structure shaped like the bottom of a canoe and containing strange writing or symbols on it, like hieroglyphics. As we will see in a later chapter, nothing could have prepared Dennis for what he was about to discover next, upon stepping into the RAAF hospital building.

The Ballard Funeral Home is still in business at the same location, 910 South Main Street, as in 1947. When stopping by to look over the building, visitors are asked to be considerate of funeral services that may be ongoing there.

Glenn Dennis (Courtesy of Kevin D. Randle)

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WHITMORE RESIDENCE

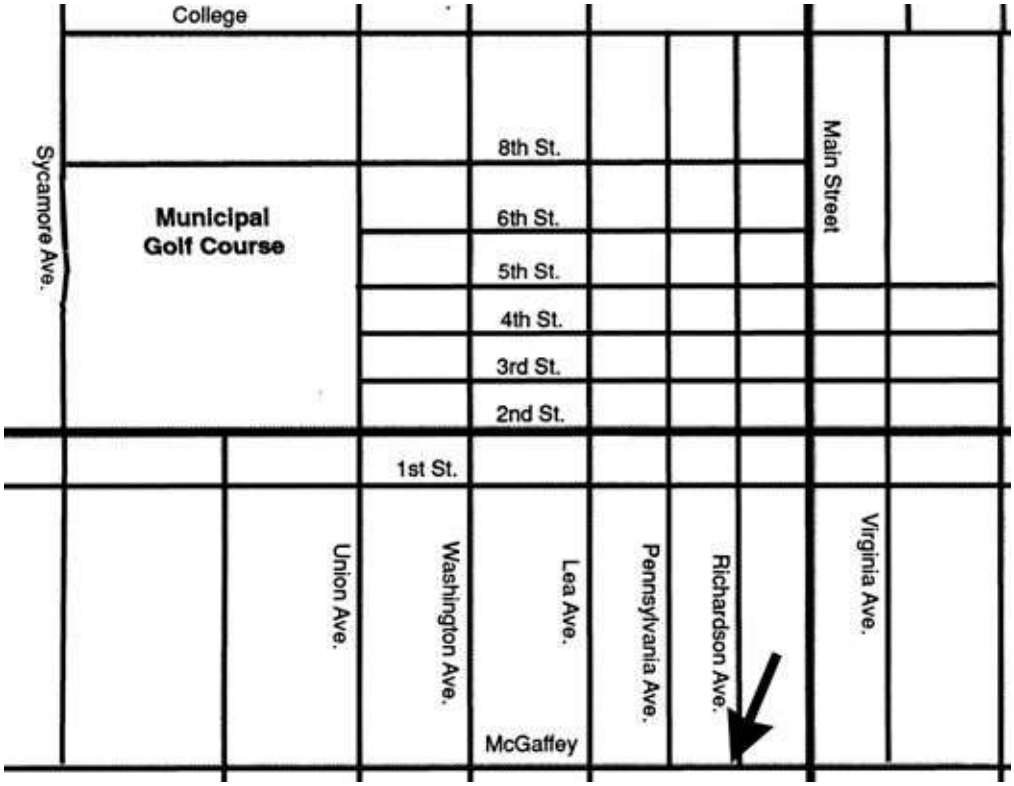
Status: Residence still stands.
Location: 204 W. McGaffey Street
Accessibility: Private residence.

On July 7, 1947, after KGFL radio announcer Frank Joyce talked by phone with rancher Mack Brazel, who claimed to have found wreckage and bodies at his ranch, radio station owner Walt Whitmore, Sr. became entranced by the story. Realizing that Brazel's tale had the potential to become a worldwide news sensation, Whitmore began formulating a plan to obtain an exclusive radio interview with the rancher.

Former Residence of Walt Whitmore, Sr. (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Depending on the version of the story, Whitmore either drove out to the Foster Ranch or sent someone in his place, to pick up Brazel. Either way, Brazel was persuaded to come into Roswell, spend the night at Whitmore's

house, and be interviewed for radio.



Former Whitmore Residence, Near Intersection of Richardson Ave & McGaffey

According to *Witness to Roswell* by Carey and Schmitt, KGFL newsman George “Jud” Roberts, recorded the interview with Brazel late on the evening of July 7 at Whitmore’s home in Roswell. By all accounts, it was an interview that would blow the lid of secrecy off the entire affair, and KGFL fully intended to broadcast it – but not until the following day. Because the station was already off the air by the time the interview was taped, the radio station personnel planned to broadcast it the next day, July 8. Unfortunately, early the next morning, the military showed up, took Brazel away to temporary confinement at the Roswell Army Air Field, and also confiscated the recordings made by Roberts on the previous evening.

In addition, Roberts received a phone call from an official of the Federal Communications Commission stating that if KGFL aired anything about the Brazel interview, the station would lose its license to broadcast. This call was followed moments later by a phone call from U.S. senator Dennis Chavez, who advised the station to comply with the FCC’s request. As a result, Brazel’s interview with KGFL was lost, except in the memories of those who knew about it.

It seems clear that, before the military intervened in the matter, Whitmore fully intended to go on the air with perhaps the most shocking radio broadcast ever made – the discovery of a crashed flying saucer and the bodies of its non-human occupants. It is certain that some individuals in the U.S. government feared that this would bring about a nationwide panic along the lines of the infamous 1938 Orson Welles “War of the Worlds” radio broadcast by CBS.

Another View of Former Whitmore Residence (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

As we stand viewing Whitmore's former home at 204 West McGaffey, we cannot help but wonder what the result might have been if the world had been allowed to hear Mack Brazel's amazing eyewitness testimony recorded right here inside this house. Would it have changed the world, or would the military have been able to discredit it as they did the Foster Ranch debris?

The house where Whitmore once lived is a private residence, and visitors are cautioned not to trespass or disturb its current occupants. Use caution and common sense when taking pictures of the home and surrounding area.

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ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Status: Demolished. Site is now Chaves County Administration Building
Location: 1 St. Mary's Place
Accessibility: Chaves County government building.

On the evening of July 4 between 11:00 and 11:30 p.m., a log entry was made by two Franciscan Catholic nuns observing the night sky atop St. Mary's Hospital in Roswell. Mother Superior Mary Bernadette and Sister Capistrano reported seeing a flaming object falling toward Earth at a point north of their position. They speculated that it was an airplane in distress. This prompted them to record the incident in their nightly log, but they made no further inquiry into the strange sighting, and it was many years later before their log entry was discovered.

St. Mary's Hospital in the Early 1960s (Courtesy of HSSNM)

The nuns' sighting was recently summarized on the *tinwiki.org* Web site as follows: "Two Catholic nuns, reported to be Mother Superior Mary Bernadette and a Sister Capistrano, report seeing a bright fiery object appear to go to the ground well to the west and slightly north of Roswell, possibly in the mountains or beyond, late in the evening while looking out a third floor window of the now demolished Saint Mary's Hospital during the change of their shift, recording its passage in their logbook. They make no mention of an explosion, perhaps because of the distance the object went down from where they were, although some reports say the nuns saw a large flash in the night sky in the exact place on the horizon at the same time they lost eye contact with the object."

Chaves County Administrative Center, on Former Site of St. Mary's Hospital (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

St. Mary's Hospital was the city's first medical facility, having been established in 1906 by nuns of the Roman Catholic nursing order, Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother. It was the birthplace of a number of celebrities, including singer John Denver and motion picture actress Demi Moore.

The hospital was purchased by Chaves County in 1989 and became part of Eastern New Mexico Medical Center, which the county had operated since 1955. The aging St. Mary facility was finally demolished in 1999, and on the lot where it once stood, the county built the green-domed Chaves County Administration Offices, also called the Joseph R. Skeen Building.

The new building is located at 1 St. Mary's Place and is a public facility that is open to visitors during regular business hours. You are asked to park only in designated visitor parking spaces, and be careful not to interfere with any of the county operations going on at the facility. You may also choose to visit outside

of the normal business hours in order to encounter less hectic conditions. After hours, you will not be able to enter the building, but you can walk around outside, take pictures, and look to the northwest, where the nuns claimed to have seen the fiery object crash to the earth in July 1947. Their account of seeing a flying vehicle in the skies above town prior to the reported UFO crash is a very significant moment in the history of the Roswell Incident.

Arrow Shows Former Location of St. Mary's Hospital (BLM Map)

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RAAF CHAPEL

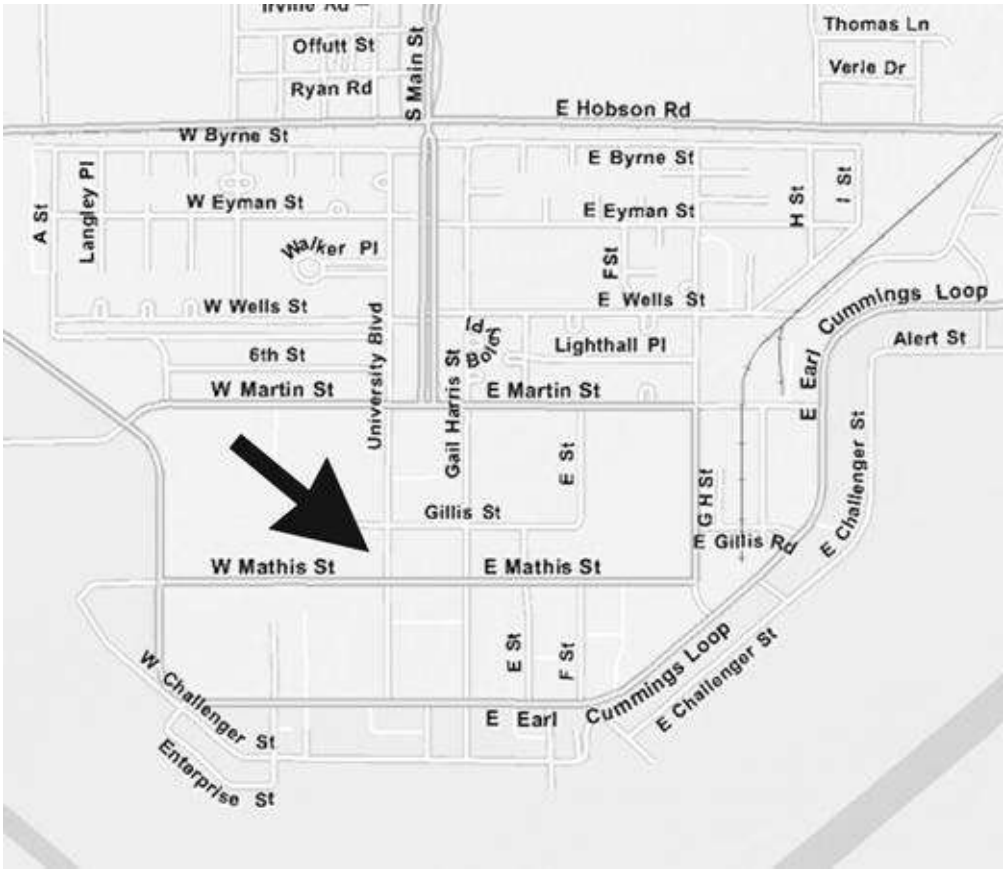
Status: Public house of worship.
Current Location: 206 East Charleston Road, just off of South Main Street.
Original Location: N.W. of the intersection of University Blvd. & Mathis St.
Accessibility: Church open to the public during hours when services are held.

A church building is normally thought of as a place of refuge during times of both spiritual and actual danger. In July 1947, the small chapel at the Roswell Army Air Field was, without a doubt, at the center of a swirling firestorm of intense emotions and extreme tensions. Talk was "in the air" about a strange UFO crash site north of town. Eyewitnesses spoke in hushed tones about small bodies that were not human and pieces of debris that nobody on Earth could have made.

The Former RAAF Chapel (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Although the former RAAF chapel still exists today, it has been moved from

its original location on the air base and can now be found about two miles north of where it was in 1947. Back then, according to Roswell historian Elvis Fleming, the white, wood frame chapel stood with its lonely steeple rising into the sky in what is now an empty lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of University Boulevard and Mathis Street. “That chapel originally was across the street just west of the present Arts and Sciences Center. When I came to Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell in 1969, I was told that it had been the Catholic chapel…. It was all boarded up and was being used for storage when I arrived on the scene,” Fleming remembers.



Map Shows Location of Former RAAF Catholic Chapel

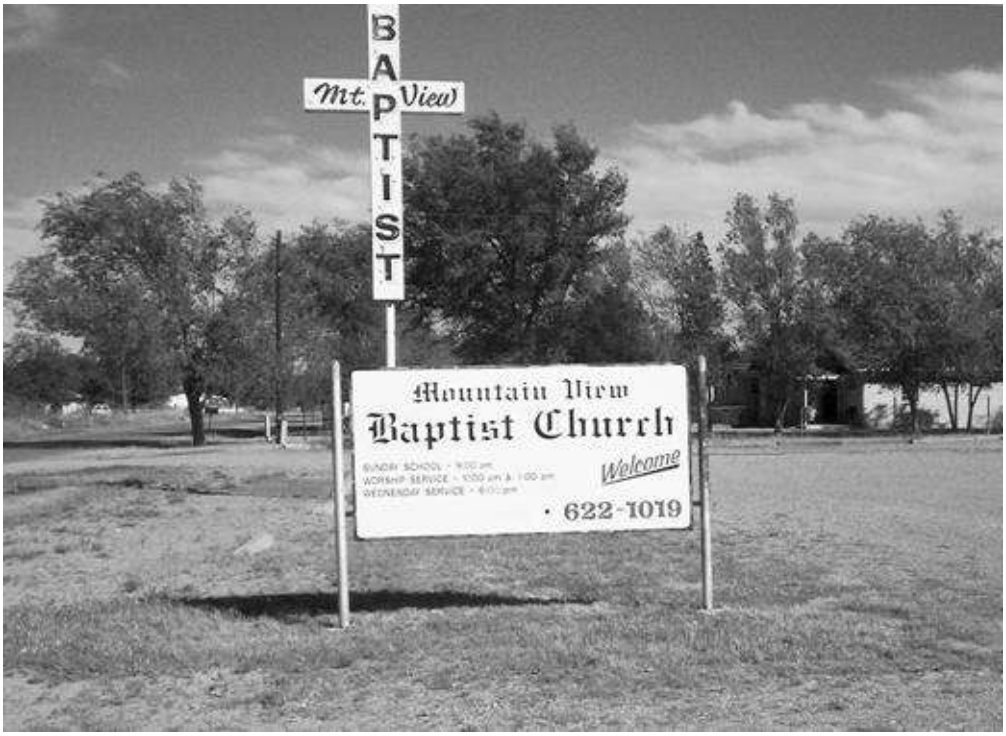
In their book *Witness to Roswell*, Carey and Schmitt discuss reports that some of the RAAF personnel had difficulty coping with what they saw and experienced in July 1947. Some turned to alcohol; others became suicidal. Suddenly and dramatically realizing that they had been visited by beings from beyond the Earth, some of the soldiers most certainly sought out the quiet solitude of the RAAF chapel to reflect on the end of their innocent view of the universe. Jesse Marcel, Jr., who was 11 years old at the time, later wrote, “The

experience as definitely a ‘game changer’ in my life…. Suddenly and profoundly, I realized that human beings are *not alone* in the vast cosmos and that God’s unbounded creative energies did not begin or end with the creation of life on Earth.”

Another View of the Former RAAF Chapel (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

At the time of the Roswell UFO crash, according to Carey and Schmitt, services at the RAAF chapel were conducted by a Protestant minister, the Reverend Elijah H. Hankerson of the National Baptist Convention. Then abruptly, on July 10, 1947 – in the midst of the Roswell Incident – the Army suddenly, on very short notice, transferred Hankerson and brought in Captain William B. Benson, a Roman Catholic priest. The sudden switch has led to speculation that the Army was stepping up its “damage control” in the wake of the continuing Roswell crisis. Perhaps the Army leaders felt better having a member of the Catholic priesthood, steeped in its long tradition of dealing with deep spiritual crises in a confidential manner.

According to researcher Anthony Bragalia, the displaced Reverend Hankerson never mentioned having been stationed in Roswell, even to relatives. Family members say that, later in life, Hankerson, who died in 1990, seemed haunted by something from his past that had changed his perspective on life and on the universe. He was often heard repeating, as if in a trance, several phrases, including, “The universe is amazing,” and “I am just a man.”



Sign for Mountain View Baptist Church (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

In the 1970s, the former RAAF chapel was moved to its present location at 206 East Charleston Road, not far from the old air base. Since then, it has been the meeting place for the Mountain View Baptist Church, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention. As of this writing, Sunday services at the church are held at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., and Wednesday services are at 6 p.m. The church phone number is 575-622-1019.

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RAAF ENTRANCE / MAIN GATE

Status: Entrance no longer restricted. Guard house no longer in place.
Location: Slightly north of intersection of S. Main St. & W. Byrne St.
Accessibility: Public roadway.

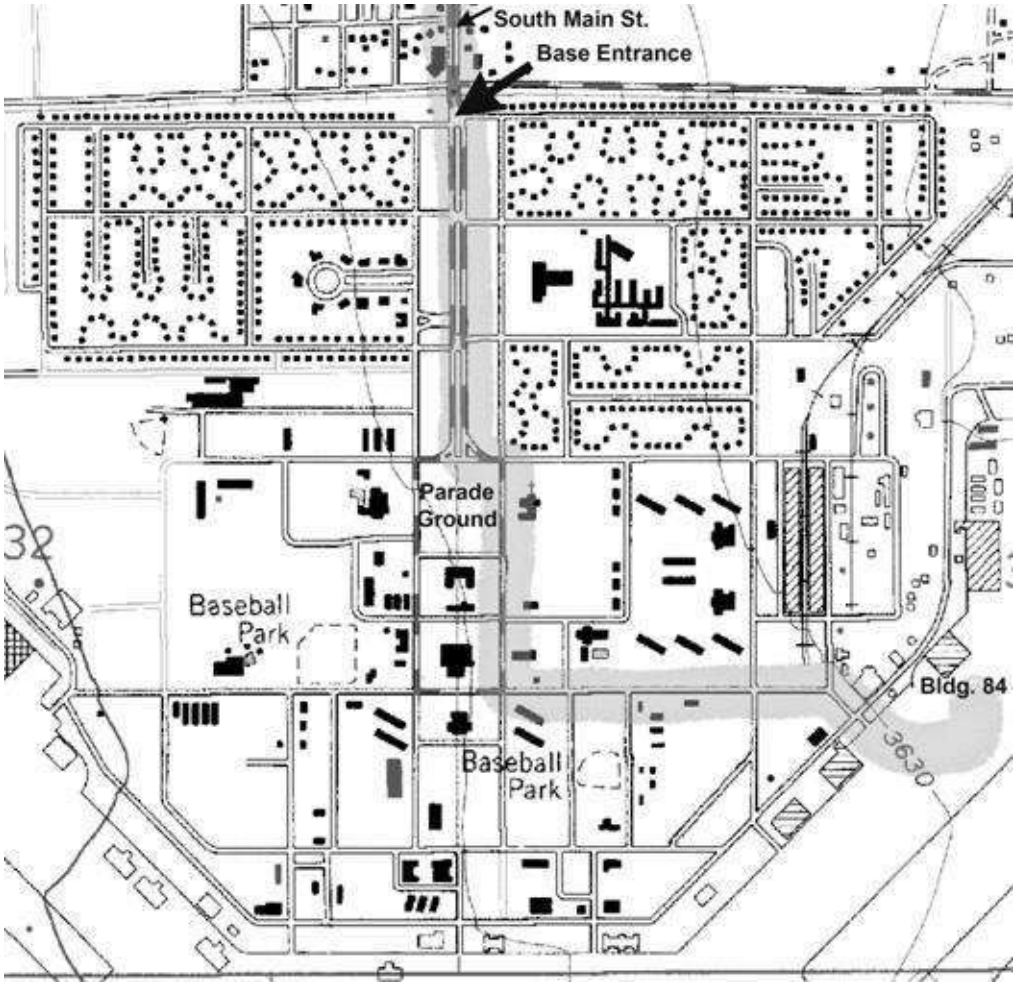
Roswell Army Air Field, like all military bases, had a guard house at its main gate, and everyone entering or exiting the base was scrutinized by the military police on duty. The guard house, which was removed after the air base was decommissioned in 1967, stood just northwest of the intersection of South Main Street and West Byrne Street. Today, there is no trace of the guard house or pillars, but visitors can walk around the place where the entrance to the base used to be.

1960s Photo of Former RAAF Main Gate (Courtesy of Clifford Bossie)

There are two interesting stories associated with the main gate of the Roswell Army Air Field. First, when the Army reportedly brought the crashed UFO on a flatbed trailer through the town of Roswell, the convoy, consisting of the truck-trailer and its jeep escort, pulled through the main gate of the base, right here past the guard house, and continued south along Esplanade Street.

After passing here, the convoy continued south past the base parade grounds,

where it turned east and moved on to Building 84. Once there, the top secret materials on the flatbed trailer were unloaded into Building 84, which was the base's most secure aircraft hangar. As the story goes, several witnesses later saw an airship of unknown design inside Building 84, as well as some "non-human" bodies. There were also rumors that one of the small creatures recovered at the UFO crash site was still alive when it was brought to Building 84.



Map Shows Convoy Route to Bldg. 84 (USGS Map)

According to Carey and Schmitt, and author Lynn Michelsohn, it is rumored that the UFO occupant who was still alive was later able to "escape" from Building 84. Supposedly, the creature left by unknown means and was later seen peeking through the windows of several homes located in a trailer park just northwest of the base's main gate. The apparition certainly must have terrified the local residents, and the reaction of the humans probably, in turn, also frightened the creature.

The guards at the base entrance saw the alien coming out of the trailer park

area, and supposedly, they panicked, fired upon it, and inadvertently killed it. Although this story remains unverified and is considered a legend, it remains, to this day, one of the more interesting bits of lore revolving around the 1947 Roswell Incident.

Current Entrance to the Roswell Air Center (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

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RAAF GUEST HOUSE

Status: Still standing.
Location: 2 West Byrne St.
Accessibility: Private property.

Immediately adjacent to where the RAAF entrance and guard house once stood, there is a small wooden building that in 1947 was known as the RAAF "guest house." In this building, rancher W.W. "Mack" Brazel was held by the military for five days, and during this time, the Army apparently persuaded him to change his story about the debris he found on his ranch.

The Former RAAF Guest House, North Side (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Brazel was brought to the guest house after spending the evening of July 7, 1947 at the home of KGFL radio station owner Walt Whitmore, Sr., during which he was interviewed on tape about the mysterious debris he found at the Foster Ranch. During the interview, which was never aired, he reportedly also mentioned having seen the bodies of "little people" a couple of miles from the main debris field. On the day after this interview, Whitmore took Brazel to KGFL and called the Roswell Army Air Field. The military came to the station,

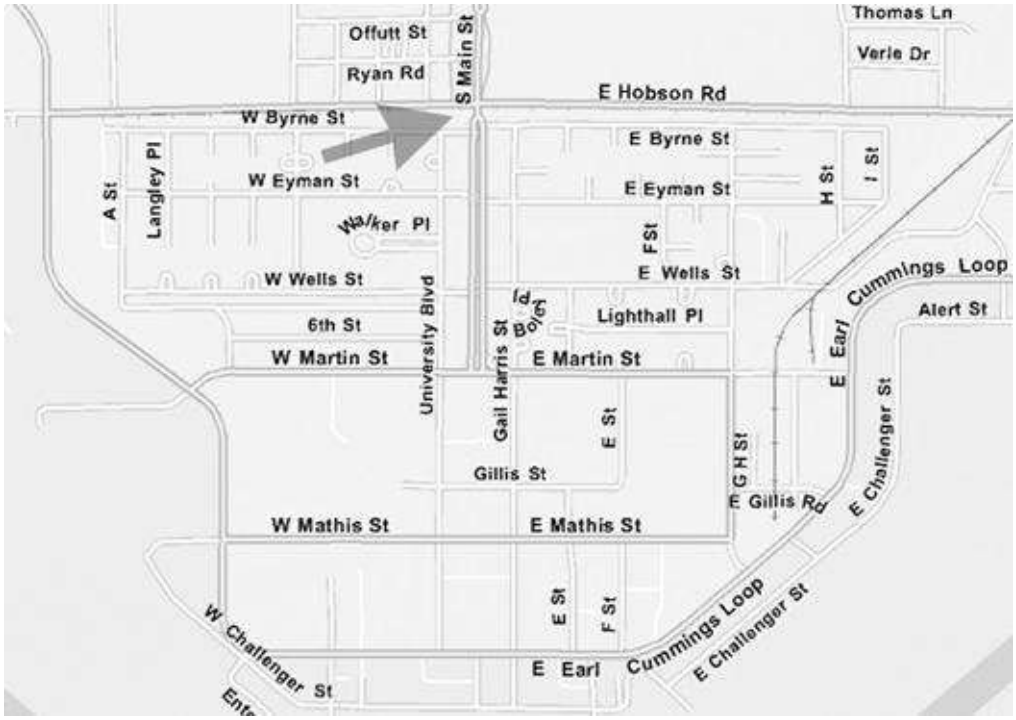
took custody of Brazel, and confiscated the recording of Brazel's interview, made the previous evening.

The Former RAAF Guest House, South Side (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Brazel was taken from the KGFL offices to the RAAF guest house, where he was reportedly held under armed guard for five days. Located northwest of the intersection of South Main Street and Byrne Street, the guest house still stands today. It was after being held here by the military that Brazel's story about what he saw at the Foster Ranch changed dramatically.

During his stay at the guest house, Brazel was taken under military escort to the offices of the *Roswell Daily Record* with a "revised" story about his discovery of the debris at his ranch. With his military escort standing close by, Brazel now made his discover sound more like conventional, man-made materials, such as rubber, tinfoil, paper, and wooden sticks. Also, Brazel now said that he had originally discovered the debris on June 14, instead of on July 4, as he had previously said. Although the story was sounding quite a bit different now, he did state that the debris was totally unlike what he had found when two weather balloons had crashed on his ranch previously.

Brazel was then taken by his military handlers to radio station KGFL, where he was permitted to go into the building by himself to speak to Frank Joyce, while the soldiers waited outside. As he started to tell Joyce the "revised" version of his story, Joyce interrupted him and asked why he had changed his story. Agitated, Brazel replied, "It'll go hard on me."



Former Guest House is at S. Main St. & Hobson Rd. (Southwest Corner)

After the KGFL interview, Brazel was escorted by the military back to the guest house at the air base, where he would remain for nearly a week. During this time, he was reportedly interrogated for long hours and was subjected to an unwelcome and highly-invasive physical examination. The military may also have used certain “brainwashing” techniques to try to keep him from ever talking about his experience. It was also during Brazel’s confinement at the guest house that a task force of at least 60 soldiers descended upon the Foster Ranch and reportedly cleaned up every scrap of evidence that something had crashed there.

When Brazel was finally released, he refused to say anything other than that he had found a weather balloon. Privately, he complained of being mistreated by the military during his time at the RAAF guest house. He said that he was not even allowed to call his wife. He also told his children that he had to swear an oath not to talk about the incident.

Within a year after these strange events, Brazel returned to his hometown of Tularosa, New Mexico, where he operated a refrigerated meat locker rental business. From then until he passed away in 1963, he never again spoke publicly about what happened in July 1947.

The Former RAAF Guest House, East Side (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

As of the writing of this book, the former guest house now serves as a meeting place for a church called *New Hope Center*, which is affiliated with the Pecos Valley Baptist Association of Artesia, New Mexico. Services are held on Thursdays and Saturdays at 6 p.m. Call 575-513-1580 for more information.

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BLANCHARD RESIDENCE

Status: Still standing.
Location: 1 Walker Place
Accessibility: Private residence.

If the Roswell Incident did unfold as described by so many witnesses, base commander William H. Blanchard stood squarely in the middle of the entire operation. According to Walter Haut, Blanchard was fully involved in the recovery of a crashed UFO and alien bodies. Blanchard also reportedly took Haut on a quick tour of Building 84, where he allowed the lieutenant to view the metallic, egg-shaped saucer and two humanoid bodies described as being four-feet tall.

William H. Blanchard (USAF Photo Archives)

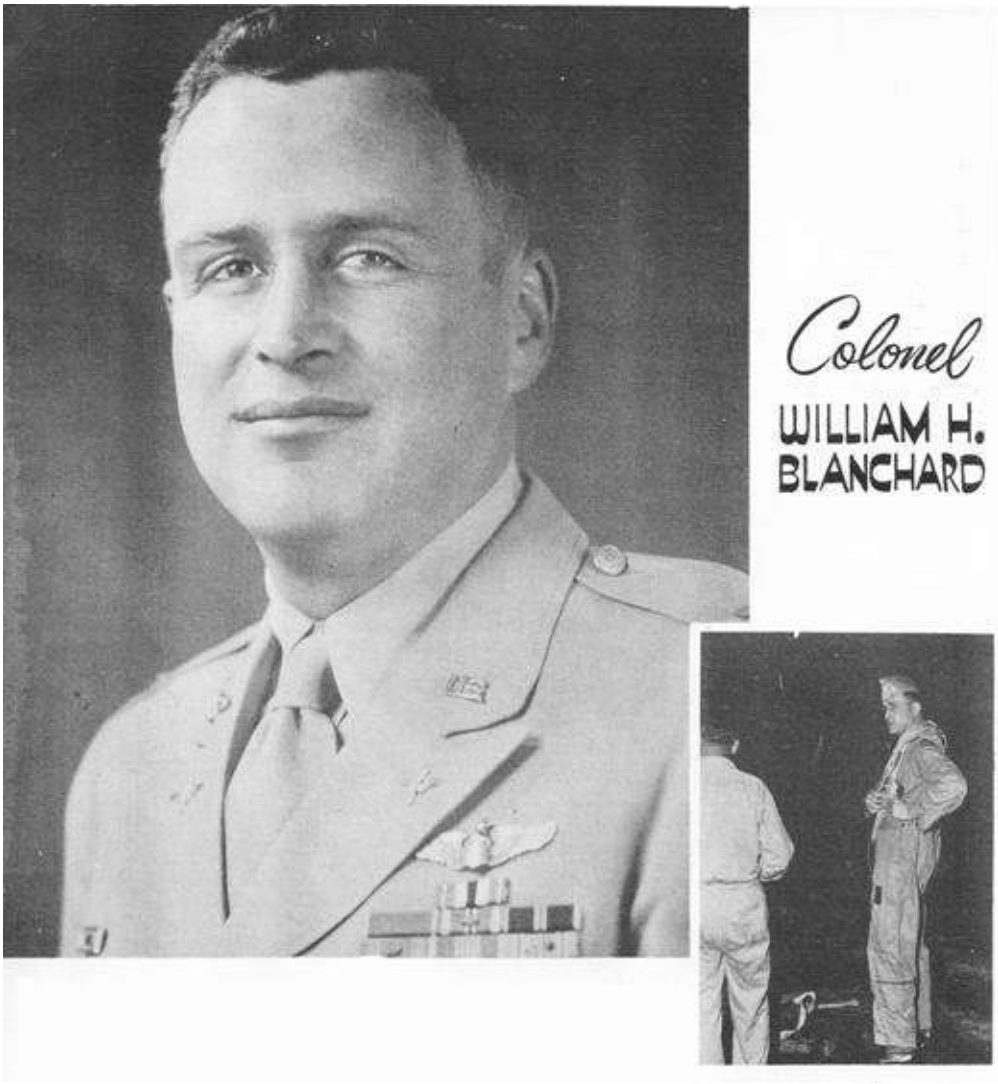
Blanchard's residence at the Roswell Army Air Field still stands at the end of

the circular street known as Walker Place. As we visit this key location in the Roswell story, we cannot help but imagine what wonder and fear must have gripped Colonel Blanchard in July 1947, as he struggled with the orders that he was given by higher command. What thoughts and feelings must have surged through his mind late at night as he lay in his bed here, while less than a mile away, a flying vehicle from beyond the Earth and the bodies of its occupants reportedly lay on the floor of Building 84? Unfortunately, the secrets that Blanchard knew died with him on May 31, 1966.

The Former Blanchard Residence (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Blanchard, a native of Boston, Massachusetts, began his military career as a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1938. After completing pilot training at Randolph and Kelly fields, Texas, in 1939, the Boston native served as a flight instructor and as chief of advanced pilot training in the Flying Training Command, before becoming part of the very first B-29 bomber wing at Salina, Kansas, in 1943.

In 1944, Blanchard, then deputy commander of the 58th Bomb Wing, flew the first B-29 into China and took part in strategic bombing operations against the Japanese mainland. He flew low-level fire raids against major Japanese targets while serving as commander of the 40th Bomb Group (B-29) and then as operations officer of the 21st Bomber Command in the Marianas.



From 1946 Roswell Army Air Field Yearbook (Courtesy of HSSNM)

At the climax of World War II, Blanchard drew the assignment of preparing and supervising the operation to deliver the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The experience gained in atomic bombing operations led Blanchard to be named commander of the 509th Bombardment Wing, during which he served at the Roswell Army Air Field. It was during this time of his life that he came face-to-face with the Roswell Incident. Given his training and experience in atomic warfare, the most important and highly-classified military operation of its time, Blanchard was certainly qualified to manage the dangerous and volatile scenario of a UFO crash near Roswell, the retrieval of debris and bodies, and the subsequent cover-up of the entire affair.

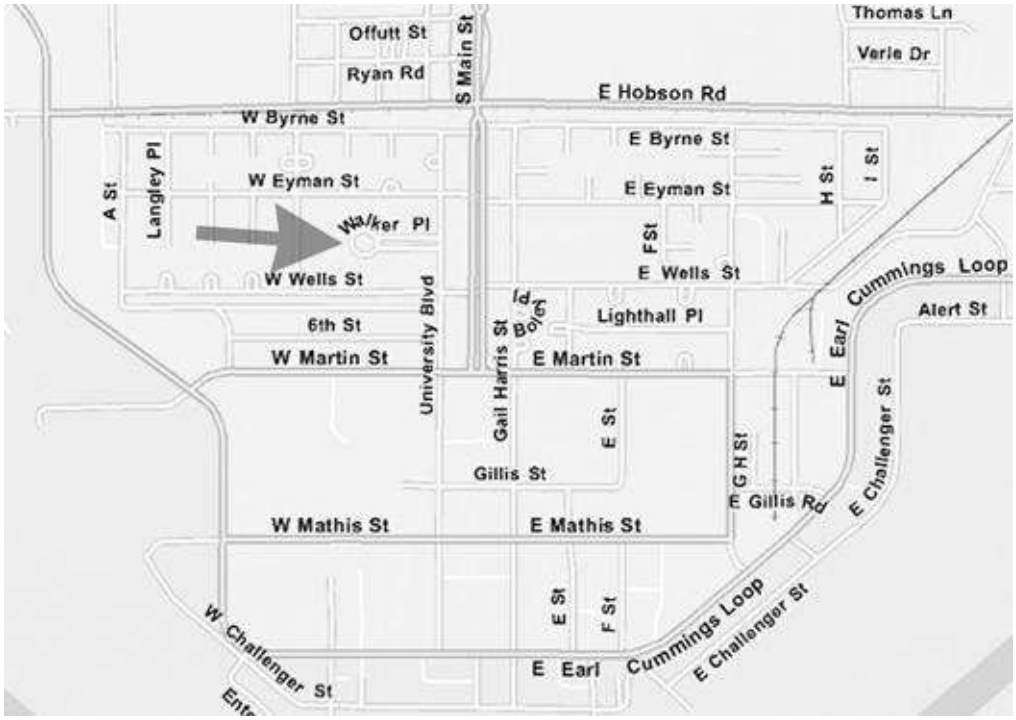
In fact, some researchers suggest that because he did his job so well in 1947, Blanchard rose to the higher echelons of the military afterward. In 1948, he was

assigned to Strategic Air Command's Eighth Air Force Headquarters as director of operations, where he helped direct the atomic training of crews for B-36s, America's first intercontinental bombers. After commanding B-50 and B-36 bomber units of SAC, he was assigned as deputy director of operations for the Strategic Air Command in 1953. Thus, the man that some UFO skeptics have said would not have been able to carry out such an effective cover-up of something as important as the Roswell Incident, was one of the key players in America's nuclear strike force during the Cold War, literally having his finger on the nuclear trigger button.

Another View of the Former Blanchard Residence (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

In fact, Blanchard assumed command of SAC's Seventh Air Division in England in 1957 and then in 1960 became director of operations for SAC. Obviously, he had the experience, background, and intelligence to accomplish a military cover-up on the level that has been suggested took place in Roswell in 1947.

After 15 years of continuous service in SAC, he was appointed the inspector general of the U.S. Air Force, and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general. In 1963, he was named deputy chief of staff at U.S. Air Force Headquarters, and in 1965, General Blanchard became vice chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, with promotion to four-star rank. By this time, Blanchard had become one of the most important men in the U.S. military.



USGS Map Showing Blanchard's Former Residence

The residence of Colonel Blanchard during his time at the Roswell Army Air Field can be visited by heading south from Roswell on Main Street all the way to the intersection of Eyman Street. Turn west on Eyman, immediately south on University Boulevard, and then west again on Walker Place. Drive to the highest point of the circle to view Blanchard's former home. According to author Lynn Michelsohn, rumors have circulated over the years of a vast network of underground tunnels here at the former Roswell air base, with at least one tunnel supposedly connecting Colonel Blanchard's home to the RAAF control tower.

While visiting, please keep in mind that this is a private residence. Everyone is reminded to respect the property rights and privacy of the current residents. In other words, do not trespass, and do not bother the owners.

Another View of the Former Blanchard Residence (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

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ROSWELL AAF HOSPITAL

Status: Demolished. Now an empty lot.
Location: Intersection of E. Wells Street and Ruohonen Place
Accessibility: Publicly-accessible vacant lot.

Our next stop is the vacant lot where the Roswell Army Air Field Hospital stood in 1947. It was a one-story building located just southeast of the present-day New Mexico Rehabilitation Center of Roswell, which was built in 1960. It was in the old hospital that Glenn Dennis claimed he saw UFO wreckage and also met a nurse that saw the bodies of the UFO occupants.

Vacant Lot Where Base Hospital Stood (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

In his 1991 affidavit, Dennis stated, "I got a call to transport a serviceman who had a laceration on his head and perhaps a fractured nose. I gave him first aid and drove him out to the base. I got there around 5:00 p.m. Although I was a civilian, I usually had free access on the base because they knew me. I drove the ambulance around to the back of the base hospital and parked it next to another ambulance. The door was open and inside I saw some wreckage. There were several pieces which looked like the bottom of a canoe, about three feet in length. It resembled stainless steel with a purple hue, as if it had been exposed to high temperature. There was some strange-looking writing on the material resembling Egyptian hieroglyphics. Also there were two MPs present."

Glenn Dennis (Courtesy of Kevin D. Randle)

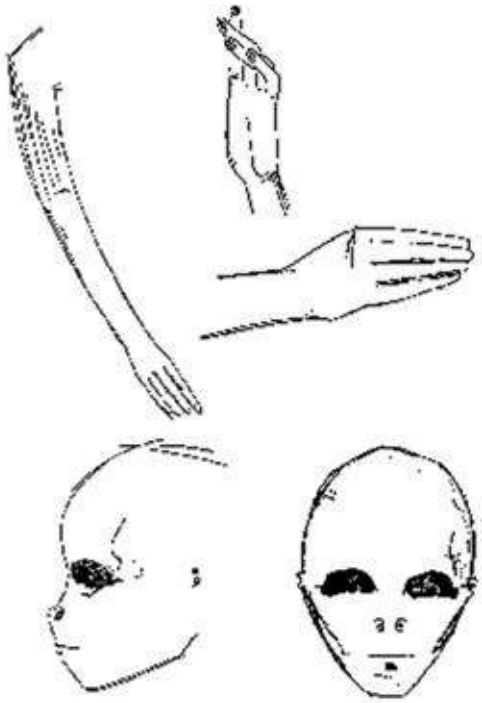
Dennis continued assisting the injured soldier into the building, and after checking him in with the hospital staff, he went to the staff lounge to have a soft drink and to look for a young nurse that he had previously met and chatted with. While headed toward the lounge, Dennis saw the nurse, a 23-year-old second lieutenant in the Army, coming out of one of the medical examination rooms, holding a cloth over her mouth. Noticing him standing there, the nurse said, "My gosh, get out of here or you're going to be in a lot of trouble," and quickly disappeared into another room.

When he talked to her on the following day, she told him that she had entered one of the examination rooms at the hospital to get some medical supplies out of a storage area, when suddenly she realized that she had walked into the middle of a very strange autopsy being conducted by two military physicians. They were conducting a preliminary autopsy on three beings that were clearly not human. "She said she had never smelled anything so horrible in her life, and the sight was the most gruesome she had ever seen," Dennis said.

Vacant Lot Where Base Hospital Stood (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Nauseated by the smells and sights in the room, she was hoping to turn and quickly leave, but the doctors motioned her over and instructed her to take notes during the procedure. Focusing her attention once more at the strange creatures on the tables before her, she became fully convinced that they were not any form of life from planet Earth. “This was something no one has ever seen,” she later told Dennis.

Of the three bodies lying on tables in the room, three were “very mangled and dismembered,” as if predatory animals had damaged them as they lay in the desert prior to being recovered by the military. One of the bodies was “fairly intact,” according to the nurse. As the nurse spoke to Dennis, she took a slip of paper and began drawing a diagram of the bodies. She described the beings as about three and a half feet tall with a disproportionately large head, deeply-set eyes, concave nose with two holes, a narrow slit for a mouth, and ears consisting of a small hole with a flap of skin. The creatures had no hair at all, and their skin was black, possibly from exposure to the sun after the crash. Instead of teeth, they had heavy cartilage, and their skulls that were “flexible” rather than rigid. The nurse’s attention was especially drawn to the hands of the creatures, which had only four fingers with each finger having a pad resembling a suction cup at the end.



Drawing by Walter Henn Based on Sketch Seen by Glenn Dennis

As the examination continued, she heard one of the doctors say, "This isn't anything we've ever seen before. There's nothing in the medical textbooks like this." Overcome by nausea and revulsion, both she and the doctors became ill and vomited during the procedure. The doctors requested that the hospital's air conditioning system be turned off so that the smells would not permeate throughout the building.

In the end, a decision was made to stop the autopsies and move the bodies out to an airplane hangar, presumably Building 84, before examining them further. Other witnesses later testified to seeing a makeshift morgue and the strange bodies inside Building 84.

1940s Photo of RAAF Hospital Examination Room
(Courtesy of HSSNM)

Dennis did not learn any of these facts during his brief visit to the hospital. Instead, after his brief conversation with the nurse during which she suggested that he leave right away, he was approached by a stern-looking Army captain. The captain asked Dennis to identify himself and state his purpose for being in the hospital.

Dennis explained about bringing in the injured airman, and then he attempted to engage the captain in conversation about what was going on around him. Dennis told him, "It looks like you've got a crash; would you like me to get ready?" The captain told Dennis to stay right where he was and then turned and left him. Moments later, two military policemen appeared and told Dennis that he had to leave and that they had been instructed to escort him all the way back to Ballard Funeral Home. At that point, they began to forcefully remove him from the base hospital and out the back door. On the way out, Dennis was approached by another captain, which he later described as "a redhead with the meanest-looking eyes I have ever seen." Also with him was an African-

American sergeant holding a notepad in one hand. The captain told the MPs, “We’re not through with that SOB. Bring him back.” The captain came up to Dennis and said, “You did not see anything. There was no crash here. And, if you say anything, you could get into a lot of trouble.” Dennis responded, “Hey look mister, I'm a civilian and you can't do a damn thing to me.”

Vacant Lot Where Base Hospital Stood (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

“Yes we can,” the captain answered, “Somebody will be picking your bones out of the sand.” At that point, the sergeant with the notepad added, “He would make good dog food for our dogs,” and the captain said, “Get the SOB out.”

The MPs followed Dennis back to the funeral home, and he heard no more about the strange happenings at the air base until the next day. More curious than ever, Dennis tried to call the nurse he had previously talked to in the hospital, but he was unable to get through to her.

At about 11 a.m., Dennis was still on the job at Ballard Funeral Home when the nurse called him and said simply, “I need to talk to you.” They agreed to meet at the Roswell Army Air Field Officer’s Club, as will be discussed in the next chapter.

The RAAF hospital building has unfortunately been demolished. The empty lot where the building once stood is near the intersection of East Wells Street and Ruohonen Place. The location is immediately southeast of the New Mexico State Rehabilitation Center. While there isn't much to see here anymore, it is uncanny to stand on this ground and think back to the alleged recovery of alien bodies and the medical examinations that were reportedly performed at this very place.

Interestingly, the nearby New Mexico Rehabilitation Center has recorded some ghostly sightings over the years, according to Roswell author John LeMay, who recently wrote, "Ghosts, most skeptical researchers will tell you, can be quickly dismissed as mere tricks of the eyes or one's own overactive imagination. While that may be true in the case of a single individual seeing something inexplicable, what about the staff of an entire building? Ask any one of the night workers at the New Mexico Rehabilitation Center and they will tell you of the unexplainable things they have seen or heard at the rehab center over the years. There is likely no place that can match the colorful cast of ghostly characters that inhabits the NMRC.

“There is Old Scratch, a TB patient whom can still be heard scratching on the door of Room 2 in agony. There is the bombardier who appears from time to time in Room 209 to offer words of encouragement to the patients. There’s also the cigarette smoking man who lights up occasionally in Room 204 to the distress of the patients, a blonde nurse who likes to tell people what to do, and the sounds of crying babies that come from where the old maternity ward used to be.

“David Rocha, who has worked at the NMRC for more than 25 years, recalls one Christmas when all of the other employees had been sent home and only he and a handful of others stayed behind for maintenance and security. All through the night elevators mysteriously opened and closed, doors would occasionally be heard slamming shut, and strange footsteps that were not those of the other men on duty could be heard. ‘It was pretty spooky,’ said Rocha. ‘Even though this wasn’t the hospital where they brought the aliens…that was next door…you still have the sense that something happened around here.’”

The most intriguing apparition seen at the facility, according to LeMay, is a small humanoid figure that generally fits the description given of the Roswell UFO occupants. Sometimes referred to as the "alien ghost," this mysterious four-foot tall "little man" was first seen in July 1997 by NMRC nurse Josephine Morones.

While stepping out of the staff kitchen one night Morones was struck with a strange feeling. Turning to look down the hall she saw a bizarre sight: a small humanoid figure that bore similarities to the beings associated with the Roswell UFO crash. Morones later told John LeMay, "My thing was very weird. The hands weren't like fingers, they were like mittens. All I could see was the thumb. The skin, or whatever it had on, was like silk tape. We have [silk tape here] and it looked to me like someone wrapped up in that silk tape."

Morones added, “It had the egg/pear shaped head; you know how people talk about the slanted eyes and all of this? This one had round eyes. That’s what really got me. It didn’t have a nose; as far as a mouth it had a little bitty mouth. At first I thought somebody was playing a trick on me. I really did. I couldn’t explain the feeling.”

Morones also noticed that the figure cast no reflection in the glass cabinet it was standing in front of at the end of the hall. She said, “I kept looking at it and I didn’t panic because I’ve known about this place for a long time… but I looked at the glass expecting to see a reflection and what got me was there was no reflection. I kept looking at it and it suddenly just faded out and then I was able to move.”

Morones saw the figure again several nights later. “I was walking out of the kitchen and I got that feeling again and that time I knew what it was. With that in mind I was able to turn around and look and it was just standing there again.”

This time Morones called for a co-worker to come and see it, but the apparition vanished before the co-worker showed up. As of this writing, the figure has not reappeared.

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RAAF OFFICERS' CLUB

Status: Now the Eastern New Mexico University Campus Union Bldg.
Location: 48 University Boulevard
Accessibility: Public building owned by Eastern New Mexico University.

The former officers' club building at the Roswell Army Air Field is now the Campus Union Building (CUB) for Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell. The building contains a college cafeteria, which is open to the public. Visitors may enjoy a snack or a meal while considering the mysterious events that took place here in July of 1947. For it was in this building that Glenn Dennis met with the nurse he had seen in the hospital the night before. It was here that the nurse told Dennis that she saw three non-human bodies being autopsied.

Campus Union Building, Formerly the Officers' Club (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

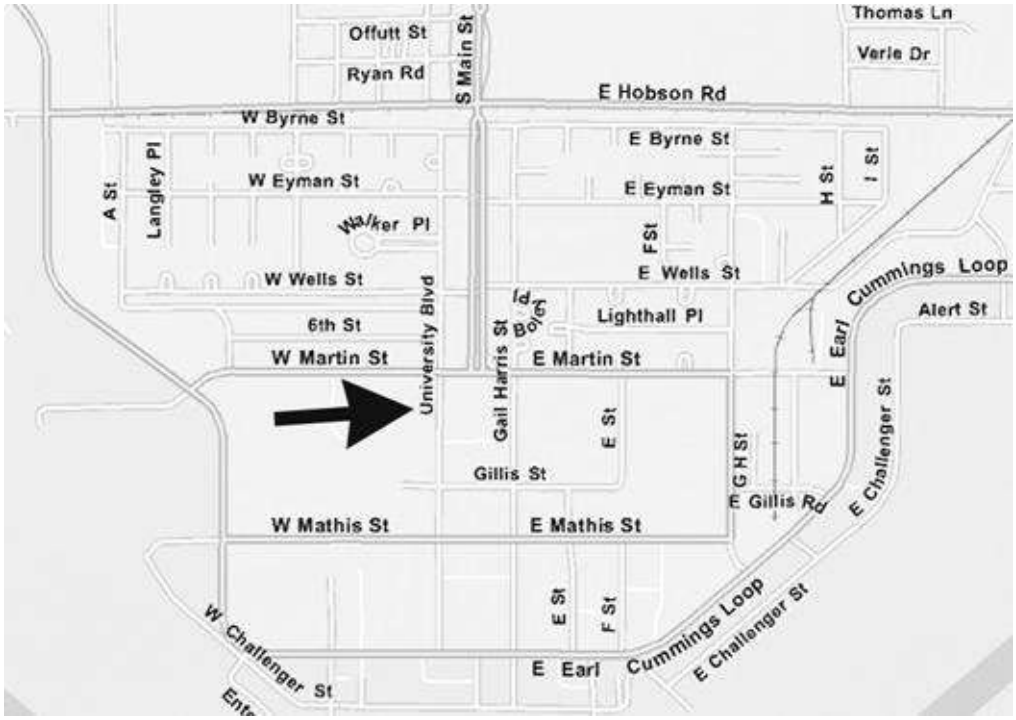
The nurse called Dennis at the Ballard Funeral Home earlier in the day and set an appointment to meet him at the officers' club. After they both arrived at the club, Dennis noticed that the nurse was pale, and he was concerned that she was on the verge of going into shock. "She was very upset," Dennis later remembered. "She said, 'Before I talk to you, you have to give me a sacred oath that you will never mention my name, because I could get into a lot of trouble.' I agreed."

1940s Photo of the Officers' Club (Courtesy of HSSNM)

Sitting together at a quiet table in the officers' club, the nurse proceeded to tell him about the incredible events from the night before. As she told her story of seeing the three alien bodies undergoing a preliminary autopsy, she took a slip of paper and began drawing sketches of the creatures she had seen.

When she finished telling Dennis her story, she gave him the drawings that she had made. Dennis took them and then drove her back to the officers' barracks. Although he did not realize it at the time, Dennis would never see the young nurse again.

When he tried to reach her at the hospital the next day, Dennis was told that she was not available. He continued trying to reach her for several more days, until another nurse told him that she and several others of the base's medical personnel had been "transferred out."



The Former Officers' Club near Intersection of University Blvd. & Martin St. (U.S. BLM Map)

A couple of weeks later, Dennis received a letter from the nurse. It had an APO (military postal service) number for a return address. In the letter, she told Dennis that she wanted to discuss by mail more about what she had seen in Roswell. Encouraged, Dennis wrote back to her; however, his letter was returned to him two weeks later, and it was stamped, "Return to Sender – DECEASED." Afterward, Dennis learned of a rumor that the nurse had been killed in a plane crash, along with five other nurses, during a training exercise.

Like many of the other Roswell witnesses, Dennis felt pressure from authorities never to reveal what he experienced during the Roswell incident. Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox, who was a personal friend of Dennis' parents, showed up at their home after the events at the base and said to Dennis' father, "I don't know what kind of trouble Glenn's in, but you tell your son that he doesn't know anything and hasn't seen anything at the base." Wilcox also said that the military had requested the names and addresses of all members of the Dennis family.

Recent Photo of Former Officers' Club (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Immediately after the visit from the sheriff, Dennis' father went straight to the Ballard Funeral Home and asked Glenn for an explanation of what exactly he had seen at the base. He told his father everything that took place, including the nurse's story. According to Dennis, his father was the only person to whom he told the story until around 1990 when he was contacted by researchers working on several books about the Roswell Incident.

Also in the 1990s, Dennis attempted to find the sketches that the nurse had made of the alien bodies. He had stored them at the Ballard Funeral Home in his personal files. Unfortunately, over the years, the sketches, along with many of his other papers from the 1940s, had been cleared out and thrown away.

If you would like to visit the former officers' club building at the Roswell Army Air Field, fortunately it is one of the most accessible of the buildings that are connected to the Roswell Incident. As a cafeteria designed for students attending Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell, the building is now an enjoyable place to pause for a meal or refreshments.

Another View of the Campus Union Building (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

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RAAF WATER TOWER

Status: Still standing and still in use.
Location: 122 E. Earl Cummings Loop
Accessibility: City government property.

One of the eeriest stories related to the Roswell Incident occurred in the unlikeliest of places – on East Earl Cummings Loop right in front of the Roswell Army Air Field water tower. According to the story, the lieutenant governor of New Mexico in 1947, Joseph Montoya, called his lifelong friend, Ruben Anaya, and requested that Anaya bring a car and meet him at the water tower outside Building 84. "Get your car, Ruben, and pick me up. Get me the hell out of here," Montoya said, according to accounts given later by Anaya.

Joseph Montoya (left) and RAAF Water Tower with Building 84 in Background (right)

Anaya, along with his brother Pete and a friend named Moses Burrola, drove as requested to the water tower, where they found Lieutenant Governor Montoya standing by the road waiting for them in a very agitated and frightened state. As he got into the car, Montoya's first words were, "Get me the hell out of here. I want to go." He was extremely pale, shaking, and seemed very scared.

On the drive out of the base, Montoya said nothing, still struggling to compose himself, but once they reached their destination, according to Ruben Anaya, the lieutenant governor began talking. "You all are not going to believe what I've seen. If you ever tell anyone, I'll call you a damned liar. We don't know what it is. They say it moves like a platter. It's a plane without wings. It's not a helicopter. I don't know where it's from. It could be from the moon. We don't know what it is."

1940s Photo Looking to the East, Showing Water Tower

(Courtesy of HSSNM)

Montoya went on to relate the extraordinary scene he had witnessed inside Building 84. He claimed to have seen four "little men," one of whom was obviously still alive, because it kept "moaning." The beings were "short … skinny like with big eyes. [The] mouth was real small, like a cut across a piece of wood." The creatures had been put on mess hall tables inside the hangar, and a team of doctors were crowding around each table, engaged in examining the beings.

Water Tower with Building 84 in Background (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Pete and Ruben Anaya recalled Montoya saying that the beings were very skinny and did not appear at all like human beings. They were hairless, had white skin, unusually large eyes, and wore tight-fitting one piece suits. They had four long, thin fingers on each hand. The Anaya brothers kept asking Montoya questions about the mysterious creatures, until at one point, Montoya blurted out, “I tell you that they’re not from this world.”

Montoya, who went on to become a powerful and influential member of the U.S. Senate for many years (1964-1977), never publically commented on what he saw in Roswell, if anything. The entire “water tower” story thus is second-hand testimony from Pete and Ruben Anaya, who waited until the 1990s, well after the death of their friend Montoya, before finally telling the story. However, friends and relatives have acknowledged that the Anayas and Montoyas were close acquaintances, and it seems unlikely to many researchers that the Anayas would betray their friendship to Montoya after his death by fabricating a false story about him.

Water Tower Still Stands outside Building 84 (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

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BUILDING 84

Status: Still standing, but now privately owned.
Location: 605 East Challenger Street
Accessibility: Private business. Closed to general public – except exterior.

If there is a deep, dark center to the Roswell universe, it has to be the uncanny and mysterious Building 84, located on East Challenger Street. Also known as Hangar P-3, this building, according to a number of witnesses, became a makeshift morgue in July 1947, where military doctors reportedly examined three dead non-human entities and one still living that were recovered from a crashed UFO somewhere north of Roswell.

1940s Photo of Building 84
(Courtesy of Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico)

In an affidavit filed in 1991, former Roswell mortician Glenn Dennis told of the air base nurse who inadvertently walked into an examination room at the base hospital as two military doctors were conducting a preliminary autopsy on three non-human bodies that presumably were recovered at the UFO crash site north of Roswell. The nurse was horrified by the smells and sights of the unearthly bodies, and after she was asked by doctors to stay and take notes for them, she became ill, as did both doctors, from the stench. At that point, the nurse later told Dennis that the doctors decided to move the autopsy area to "one of the aircraft hangars," presumably Building 84, based on the testimony of other witnesses, including the Anayas and the base public information officer in 1947, Walter Haut.

The Imposing Structure of Building 84 (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

In a 2002 affidavit, Haut remembered the eerie sight he beheld inside this building on the afternoon of July 8, 1947. As Colonel Blanchard walked him toward Building 84, Haut observed that the hangar was under "heavy guard" both outside and inside. Blanchard ushered Haut into the building and allowed him to gaze upon a scene that he would carry deep within his psyche for the rest of his life. "Once inside, I was permitted from a safe distance to first observe the object just recovered north of town. It was approx. 12 to 15 feet in length, not quite as wide, about 6 feet high, and more of an egg shape. Lighting was poor, but its surface did appear metallic. No windows, portholes, wings, tail section, or landing gear were visible.

Inside of Building 84 (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Haut also noticed two bodies under a canvas tarpaulin. “Only the heads extended beyond the covering, and I was not able to make out any features. The heads did appear larger than normal and the contour of the canvas suggested the size of a 10 year old child. At a later date in Blanchard's office, he would extend his arm about four feet above the floor to indicate the height.”

The statement closes with Haut saying that he was told about a temporary morgue set up to accommodate the recovered bodies and was also told that the UFO wreckage was not radioactive. He ended the affidavit by stating, “I am convinced that what I personally observed was some type of craft and its crew from outer space.”

On a warm day in August 2009, we visited Building 84, currently under lease to Stewart Industries International, LLC, of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and were cordially received by Material Manager Cynon J. Martinez. Stewart Industries currently uses the old RAAF hangar to dismantle airplanes that are being scrapped for parts. Cynon showed us around the facility, allowing us to take as many photos as we wished and taking us on an informal tour of perhaps the premier site in Roswell lore.

Southwest End of Building 84 (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

As we walked around the building taking pictures, Cynon confirmed that she and her colleagues are well familiar with the stories about what happened here inside this very building. Standing inside the cavernous hangar with its high arching roof, we were struck by the realization that Walter Haut claimed to have seen the crashed UFO and two alien bodies right here where we stood. Pausing for a moment, one can almost feel a strange mental and physical connection with the events that happened so long ago in this eerie place.

Cynon then took us to another very strange place, located deep inside Building 84, where legend has it that the alien bodies were kept by the military, after they were recovered at the UFO crash site north of town. Stewart Industries employees call it the “gray” room, which may refer to the drab color of the room or the “gray aliens” that were supposedly held there in July 1947.

EXIT

The Small Room Inside Building 84 Where the Bodies Were Kept

(Photo by E.J. Wilson)

The room is tiny, and is now used for general storage. Sunlight streams in through the windows as one walks around the cramped space and wonders what strange sights were seen here during the height of the Roswell Incident. It makes sense that the shockingly unusual UFO occupants would be kept securely out of view in this tiny room within the dark recesses of the massive aircraft hangar at this former Army air base. It is a strange sense of wonder and awe that fills the visitor to this most unusual of places.

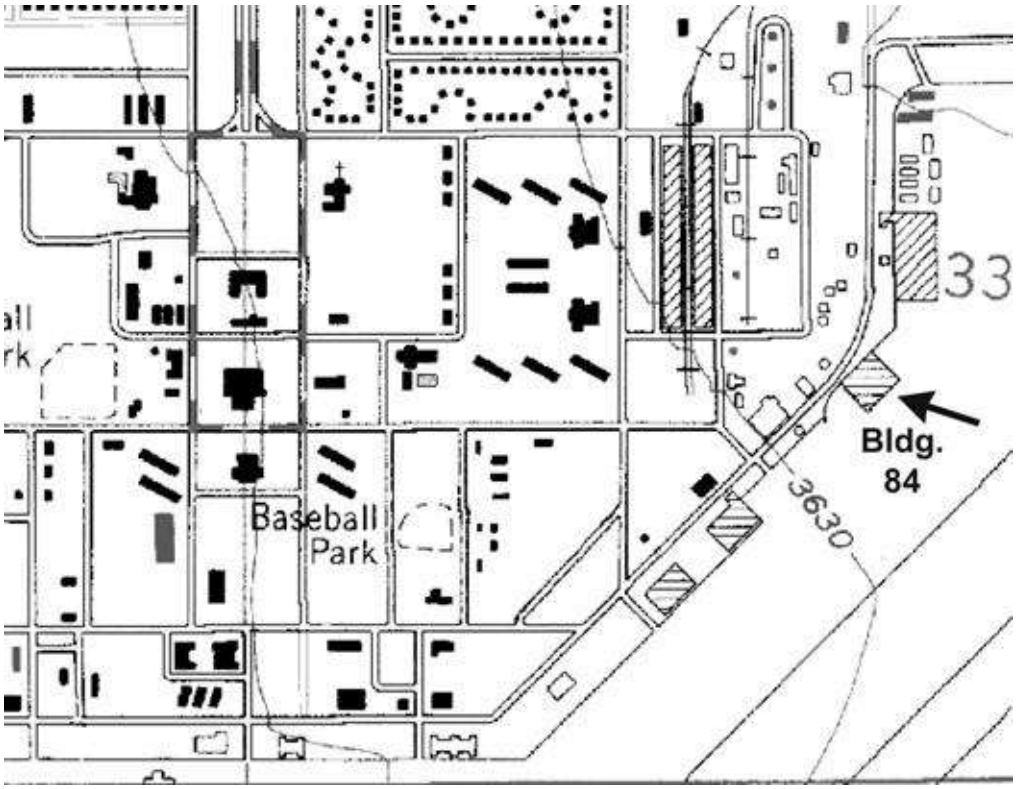
If you are interested in visiting Building 84, please keep in mind that Stewart Industries does not offer tours of their facility to the general public. Given the nature of the work that Stewart employees perform, the presence of tour groups could create potentially dangerous situations for the visitors. Tours would definitely raise liability concerns with the company's insurers and would tend to generally interfere with the company's work at the facility. Nevertheless, visitors are free to look around and take pictures from outside the fenced area of the facility, alongside Challenger Street.

The Gray Room (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Many persons familiar with the Roswell Incident have long expressed a desire that Building 84 be set aside as a special historical site, rather than having it continue to be used for industry. Perhaps this will happen one day soon.

The author would like to express sincere appreciation to Stewart Industries for allowing us to visit and photograph Building 84. For more information about this innovative company, please visit *www.siiair.com*. Stewart is one of the leading suppliers of aviation spare parts in the heavy jet industry. At its warehouse facilities in Oklahoma, the company houses millions of FAA-approved spare parts for various Boeing, Airbus, Lockheed, and McDonnell Douglas aircraft. At its Roswell facility, the company dismantles aircraft that have gone out of service and have been sold by the airlines as scrap.

The Roswell Air Center is a popular storage area for jet aircraft that are temporarily out of service or are waiting to be scrapped for parts, as the arid desert climate is known to help preserve the craft. When visiting the former military air base, you will notice large numbers of diverse aircraft, representing many airlines, all parked on the old RAAF tarmac, basking in the Roswell sunshine.



1962 Map Showing Location of Building 84 (USGS)

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RAAF HEADQUARTERS

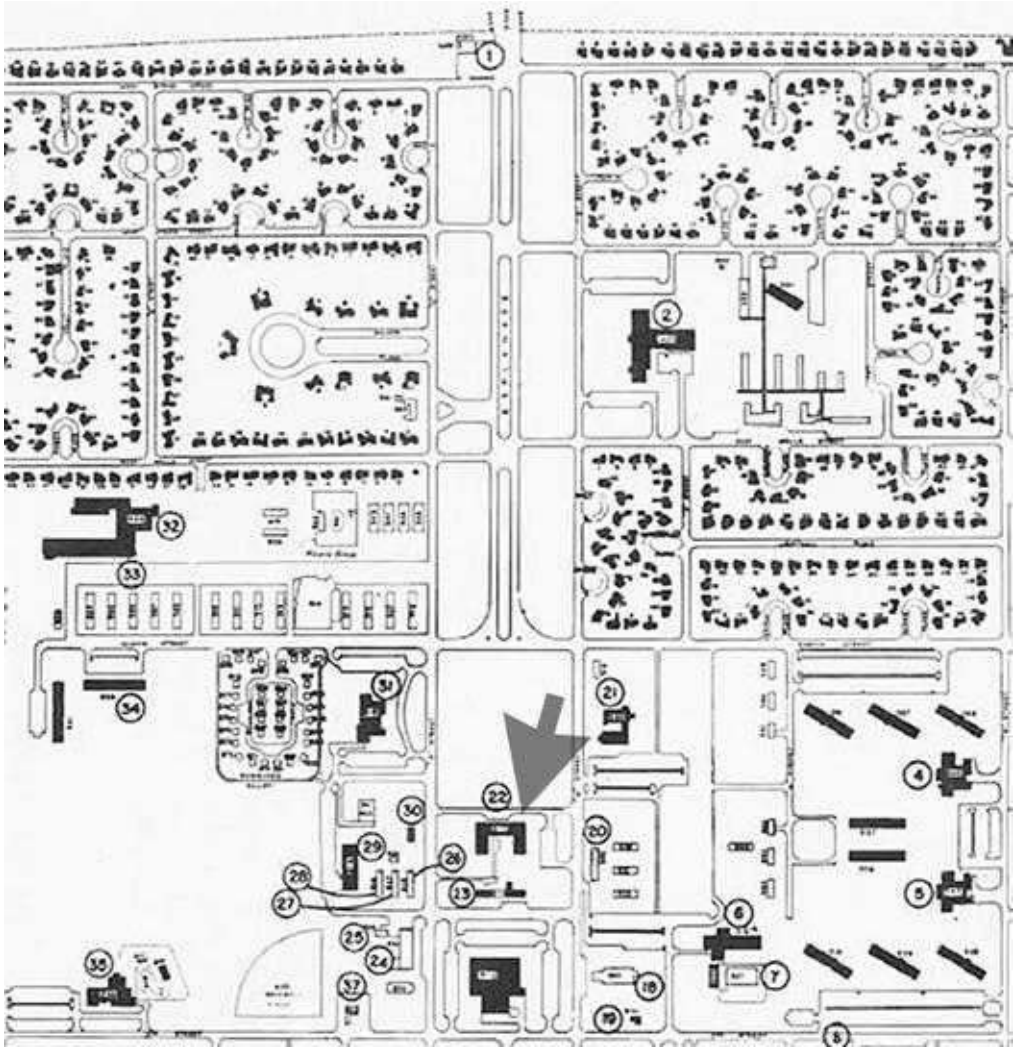
Status: The base headquarters is no longer standing.
Location: Now an empty lot, NW of the intersection of Gail Harris and Gillis Streets
Accessibility: Unfenced. Publicly-accessible vacant lot.

The Roswell Army Air Field headquarters building is unfortunately no longer standing. A vacant lot near the intersection of Gail Harris and Gillis Streets is all that remains of the structure where the RAAF brain trust held court, including base commander William Blanchard and public information officer Lt. Walter Haut. It is believed that in this building, Haut composed the famous press release about a "captured" flying saucer.

1960s Photo of Old Headquarters Building (Courtesy of HSSNM)

Major Jesse Marcel Sr., meanwhile, was most likely housed at the headquarters of the 509th Bomb Group, a building that was located closer to the flight line, south of the base headquarters. In 1947, this was the nerve center of the world's first nuclear strike force, with Blanchard as commander, Haut as his

public information officer, and Marcel as the intelligence officer. After all, this was the division that coordinated the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.



The Former RAAF Headquarters Building

Regarding his famous "captured saucer" press release, Haut said, "Col. Blanchard told me to write a news release about the operation and to deliver it to both newspapers and the two radio stations in Roswell. He felt that he wanted the local media to have the first opportunity at the story. I went first to KGFL, then to KSWS, then to the *Daily Record* and finally to the *Morning Dispatch*."

"The next day, I read in the newspaper that General Roger Ramey in Fort Worth had said the object was a weather balloon.

"I believe Col. Blanchard saw the material, because he sounded positive about what the material was. There is no chance that he would have mistaken it

for a weather balloon. Neither is their any chance that Major Marcel would have been mistaken.

Empty Lot Where Base HQ Stood (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

"In 1980, Jesse Marcel told me that the material photographed in Gen. Ramey's office was not the material he had recovered. I am convinced that the material recovered was some type of craft from outer space."

As you visit the vacant lot where the RAAF base headquarters building once stood, think about the tremendous impact that the decision to release the "captured saucer" story had on that world that day in 1947. That brief statement typed by Haut, under the direction of Colonel Blanchard, is very likely the world's foremost UFO document. Its ramifications were immense and continue to be felt today, as people study the incredible events of that period. The former RAAF headquarters stood just south of the big empty lot that served as the parade grounds.

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RAAF FIRE STATION

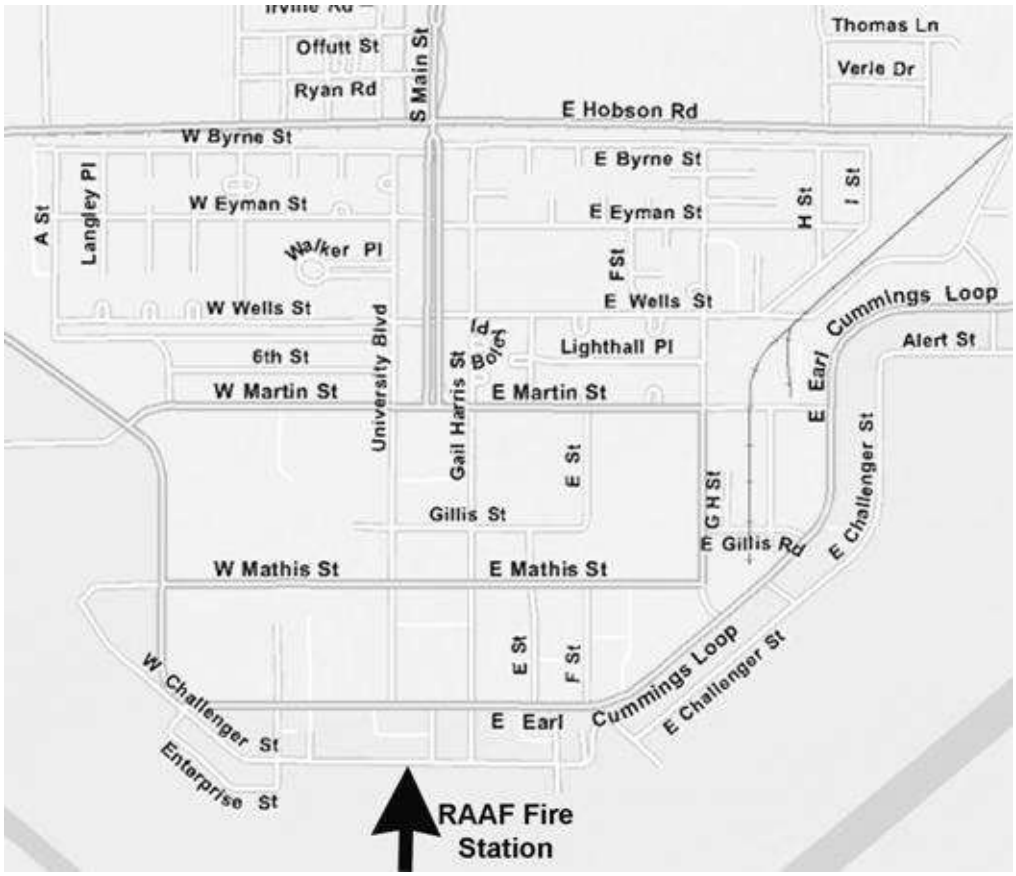
Status: Still standing.
Location: 10 West Challenger St.
Accessibility: Private property.

In a story that first came to light in March 2009, a 90-year-old former Roswell city fireman, identified only as "Mr. Smith," told an amazing story about the involvement of both the city and RAAF fire departments in the retrieval of a crashed UFO somewhere north of town. Smith, who was interviewed by investigators Anthony Bragalia and Kevin Randle, is the only member of the 1947 Roswell fire department that was still alive as of 2009.

Former RAAF Fire Station (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Smith told Bragalia and Randle that immediately after the UFO crash happened, a very tough-spoken Army colonel visited the Roswell Fire Department and told the firemen that an "unknown object from someplace else" had crashed in the desert outside town. He emphasized to them that the "rescue" operation was being handled entirely by military personnel, and that the city

firefighters should not attempt to go out to the scene of the crash. Further, he told them to keep quiet about the crashed object. Because of what the colonel said to the Roswell firefighters and also what he later heard from other witnesses, Smith is convinced that an object not from Earth did indeed crash north of Roswell in July 1947.



Map Showing Former RAAF Fire Station

Regarding the role of Roswell firefighters in the UFO incident, Smith said that it was actually the Roswell Army Air Field's own fire department that was most involved in the crash recovery and clean-up process. It was the RAAF firemen who "knew the most" about what happened. Although several city firefighters, including Dan Dwyer, defied the colonel's orders and went out to the crash site on their own, they were not asked to go and were not formally involved in the operation, according to Smith.

Another View of Former RAAF Fire Station (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Located south along the flight line, the RAAF fire station had three large garage bays for fire fighting vehicles and a tower to overlook the runways. When visiting this building, please heed all posted notices and warnings. Be sure to park only in designated parking areas.

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RAAF FLIGHT OPERATIONS

Status: Still standing.
Location: 4 East Challenger St.
Accessibility: School district property. Restricted access.

In their book *Witness to Roswell*, Tom Carey and Don Schmitt tell the incredible story of Robert J. Shirkey, who in 1947 was a lieutenant at the Roswell Army Air Field, serving as assistant operations officer for the 509th Bomb Group. Shirkey was the officer on duty at the RAAF Flight Operations building on July 8, 1947, when he witnessed a very strange procession of men and materiel pass by close to where he was standing.

Former RAAF Flight Operations Bldg. is Now a School
(Photo by E.J. Wilson)

Just outside the flight operations building, a B-29 bomber stood ready for takeoff to Wright Field in Ohio, as Shirkey saw Colonel William Blanchard, the base commander, enter the building. After confirming with Shirkey that the B-29 was ready for takeoff, Blanchard signaled a group of men to enter the building and proceed to the waiting B-29. Shirkey saw Major Jesse Marcel, Sr. and at least six unidentified men wearing dark blue suits (perhaps FBI agents) move into the main hallway of the flight operations building. As Shirkey strained to

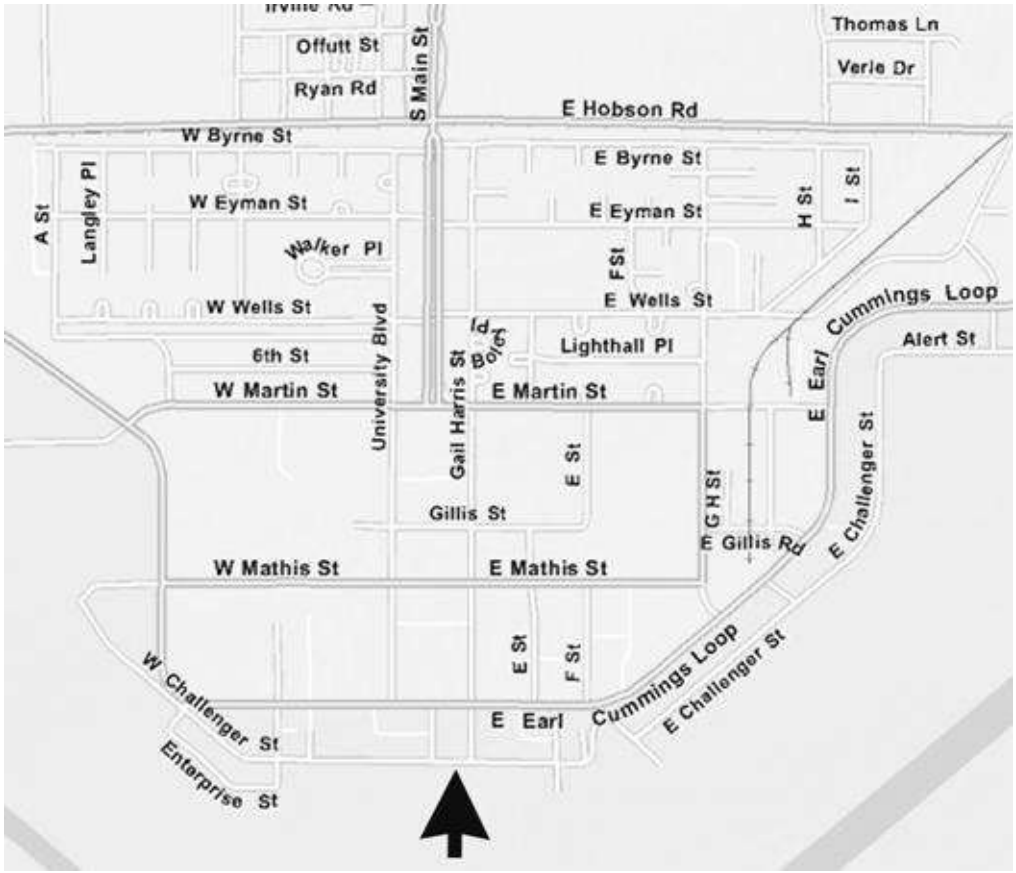
see around Blanchard, who was deliberately standing in a manner that blocked most of his view, he was able to see that Marcel and most of the other men were each carrying an open cardboard box filled with what Shirkey later described as “scrap metal.” The material looked like non-reflective aluminum.

Photo from 1946 RAAF Yearbook (Courtesy of HSSNM)

As Marcel carried his open box past him, Shirkey’s gaze fell upon an extremely strange sight. “Sticking up in one corner of the box … was a small I-beam with hieroglyphic markings on the inner flange, in some kind of weird color, not black, not purple, but a close approximation of the two,” Shirkey told Carey and Schmitt.

The strange procession of men headed on out to the tarmac, hoisted the boxes up through an open hatch in the B-29, and then all the men boarded the plane. “Here it came, and there it went,” Shirkey said.

The H-shaped building that served as RAAF Flight Operations still stands today at 4 East Challenger Street, located immediately to the east of the old RAAF fire station. It is now the Sidney Gutierrez Middle School, named after a retired NASA astronaut, and is part of the Roswell Independent School District.



Arrow Shows Location of Former RAAF Flight Ops

Tours of the school building are not available to the general public, and visitors that do not have school-related business are not allowed on campus during school hours, due to the school district's security procedures. Members of the public who would like to visit this site will be able to see only the exterior of the building. We recommend stopping by on a weekend or on any day when school is not in session.

If you would like to contact the school, call 575-627-8357. The school's Web site is *www.sgms.us*. It may be possible to schedule a tour of the building on a day when school is not in session and district staff is available to escort visitors; however, such arrangements must be made with school district officials in advance of any such tour.

Sidney Gutierrez Middle School (Photo by E.J. Wilson)

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INCINERATOR SITE

Status: Incinerator unit was demolished circa 1999.
Location: Near intersection of S. Aspen Rd. & Old Y O Crossing Rd.
Accessibility: Airport property. Fenced. Limited access.

The former incinerator unit for the Roswell Army Air Field is a fascinating site for a number of reasons. The incinerator, shown in the historical photo below, operated from 1941 until 1967 and was used to destroy classified documents and other materials. Located on the extreme southwest corner of the RAAF, this was also the site where one witness, at the time of the Roswell Incident, saw a large Army tent surrounded by an 8-foot-tall chain-link fence.

RAAF Incinerator Unit (U.S. Government Photo)

As reported to Carey and Schmitt, the eyewitness, Corporal Edward Harrison, was ordered to take a detachment of soldiers under his command and post them around the mysterious tent that had suddenly appeared in one of the most remote corners of the air base – the southwest edge. Harrison and his men were told to "shoot anything that isn't a rabbit."

1940s Photo of RAAF - Arrow Points to the Southwest Corner of the Base
(Courtesy of HSSNM)

Harrison left his men to carry out their overnight assignment, and when he returned to check on them the following morning, he was amazed to find that the

tent and the 8-foot-tall fence had disappeared without a trace. Later in life, as Harrison heard more about the Roswell Incident, he became convinced that he witnessed part of a military operation to hide the bodies recovered at the Roswell UFO crash prior to transporting them away from Roswell by plane.

Carey and Schmitt theorize that bodies from the crash were kept at this remote location due to the incredibly strong smell that had earlier caused medical personnel to nearly faint at the base hospital. According to this theory, sometime before dawn, the bodies were moved from the makeshift tent on the southwest edge of the air field onto a nearby section of runway. Then, the bodies were loaded onto a Boeing B-29 aircraft using a hydraulic lift normally used to load bombs onto planes. To any distant observers, the early morning activity on the runway would not have attracted much attention, as cargo being loaded onto planes was a common site at the RAAF.

Another interesting aspect of the incinerator is that it may well have been used to dispose of documents pertaining to the 1947 Roswell Incident. Given the scope of the retrieval and cover-up operation, it seems reasonable to assume that the military would have generated a large body of classified documents detailing the event. At a later date, these documents were likely burned in the RAAF incinerator to insure that the military's secret Roswell files would never be read by the general public.

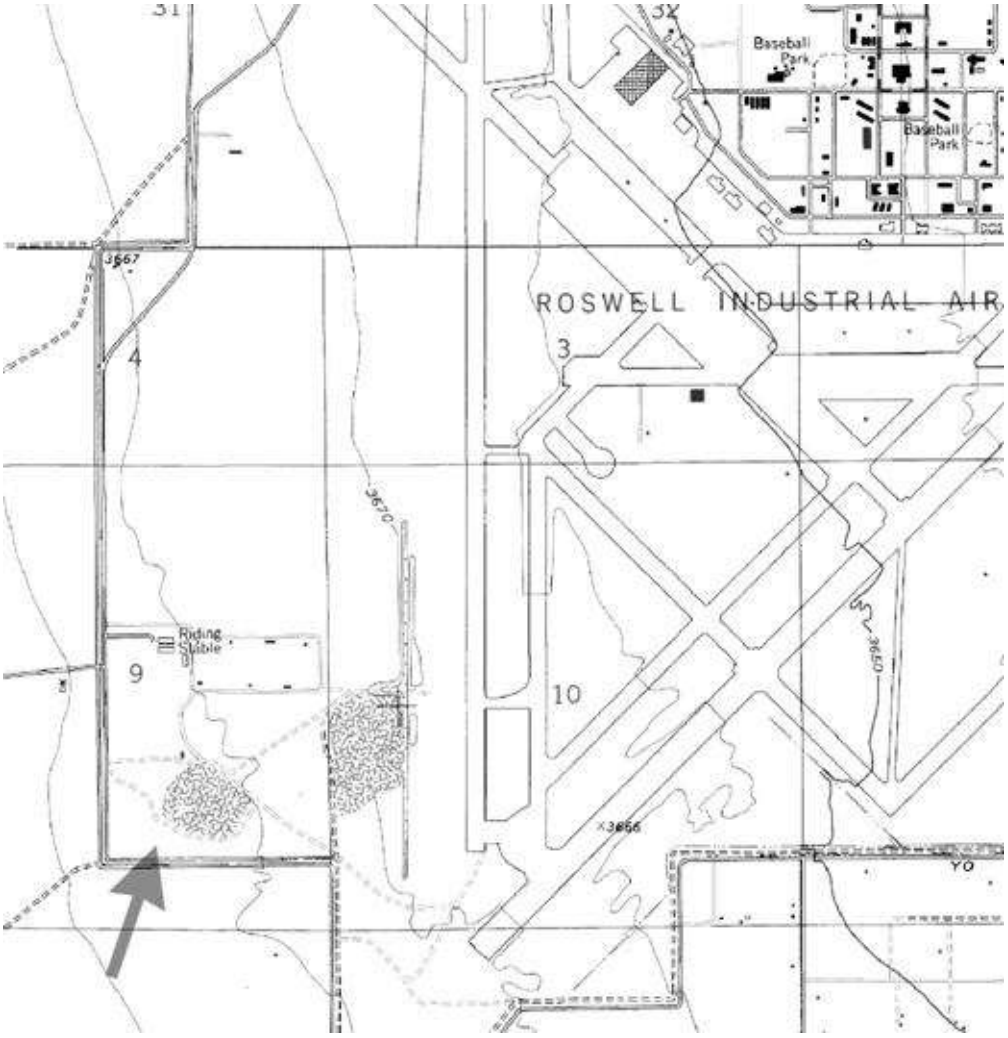
Photo of Roswell Army Air Field from 1946 RAAF Yearbook
(Courtesy of HSSNM)

Located southwest of the runways, the incinerator site is, even today, extremely isolated and not frequently visited. To reach the site, go south on

Main Street from the center of town until you reach the entrance to the Roswell Air Center. Go right on W. Hobson Road, heading west until the road turns south and becomes S. Nevada Road and then later becomes S. Aspen Road. Continue on Aspen until it ends at the intersection of Old Y O Crossing Road. You are now at the site of the former RAAF incinerator station. The area is fenced, and you will have to look in from outside the fence.

When visiting this area, please keep in mind that the roads are subject to closure due to airport activities. Please exercise great caution when visiting this area. Heed all warning signs. Do not impede any airport operations. Respect barriers, including fences. If asked to turn back by authorities, please do so immediately. Do not enter areas that are clearly off-limits to the general public. Remember that security around airports has become a very important concern in the past few years.

The former incinerator site is certainly another spellbinding stop on our tour of Roswell's UFO landmarks. One can only wonder what fascinating elements of the crash and recovery of a flying saucer in 1947 may have unfolded at this very place. This site truly does seem to generate a disturbing aura even to this day.



Arrow Shows Former Incinerator Site (Courtesy USGS)

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WOODY FARM

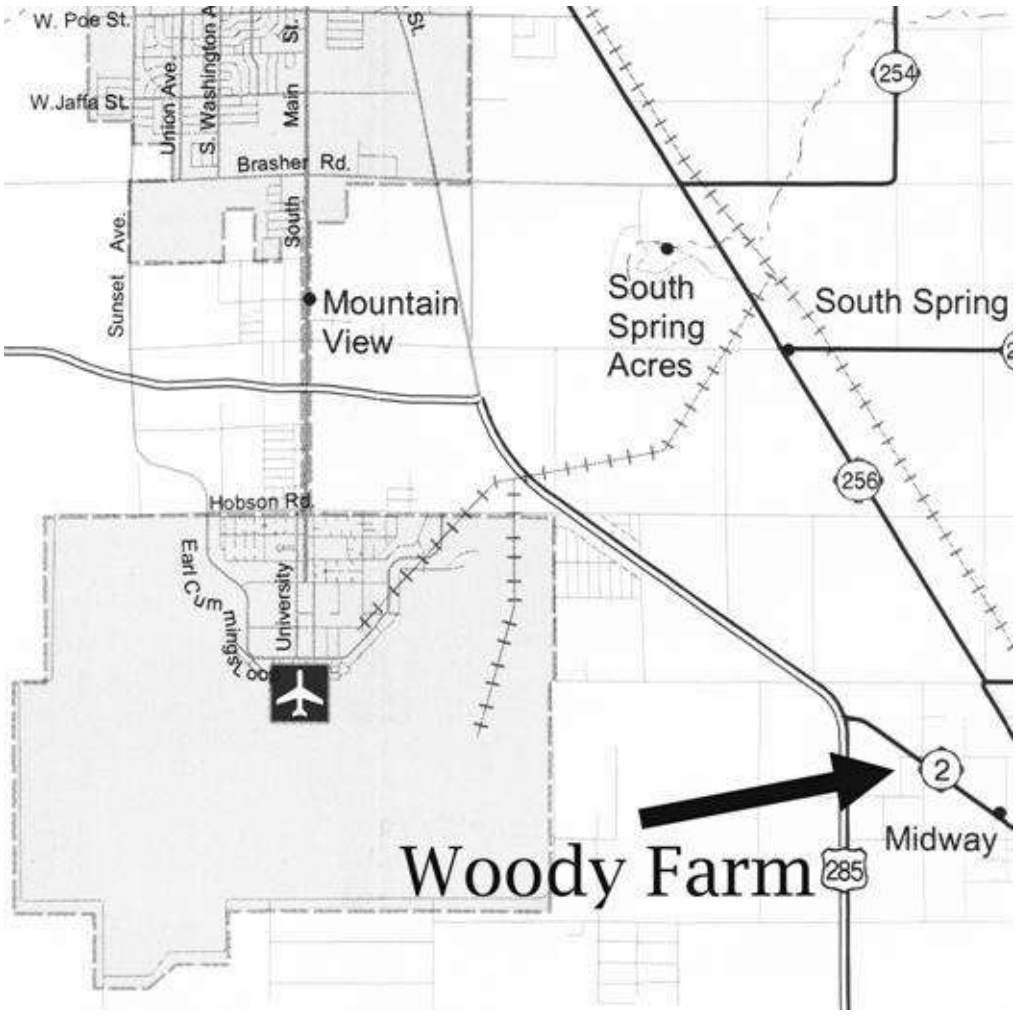
Status: Privately owned land.
Location: 6400 Cree Street, Dexter, NM.
Accessibility: Private property. Public access along roadside.

In a sworn affidavit given on September 28, 1993, another Roswell resident stated that he saw a very unusual sight in the skies over Roswell on or around July 4, 1947. The witness, William M. Woody, was 14 years old at the time and living on his family's farm, located three miles south of Roswell, just east of the Roswell Army Air Field.

Woody and his father were standing outside "well after sundown," when they saw something incredible, according to the affidavit: "Suddenly, the sky lit up. When we looked up to see where the light was coming from, we saw a large, very bright object in the southwestern sky, moving rapidly northward.

"The object had the bright white intensity of a blow torch, and had a long, flame-like tail, with colors like a blow-torch flame fading down into a pale red. Most of the tail was this pale red color. The tail was very long, equal to about 10 diameters of a full moon.

"We watched the object travel all the way across the sky until it disappeared below the northern horizon. It was moving fast, but not as fast as a meteor, and we had it in view for what seemed like 20 to 30 seconds. Its brightness and colors did not change during the whole time, and it definitely went out of sight below the horizon, rather than winking out like a meteor does. My father thought it was a big meteorite and was convinced it had fallen to earth about 40 miles north of Roswell, probably just southwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 285 and the Corona road (State Highway 247).



William Moody Observed UFO from His Family's Farm Southeast of Roswell (NM-DOT Map)

The point from which the Woodys observed the UFO is located in the 6400 block of Cree St., which now falls within the town of Dexter, New Mexico. Interestingly, their observation of a bright object moving from the south toward the north on the west side of Roswell is consistent with what was reported by the Franciscan nuns at St. Mary's Hospital.

Believing that the object had fallen somewhere along Highway 285 north of town, Mr. Woody and his son later got in their farm truck and headed north on 285, hoping to find out more about what they had witnessed. As discussed in our next chapter, what they found was a strong military presence with orders not to let any civilians near the crash site.

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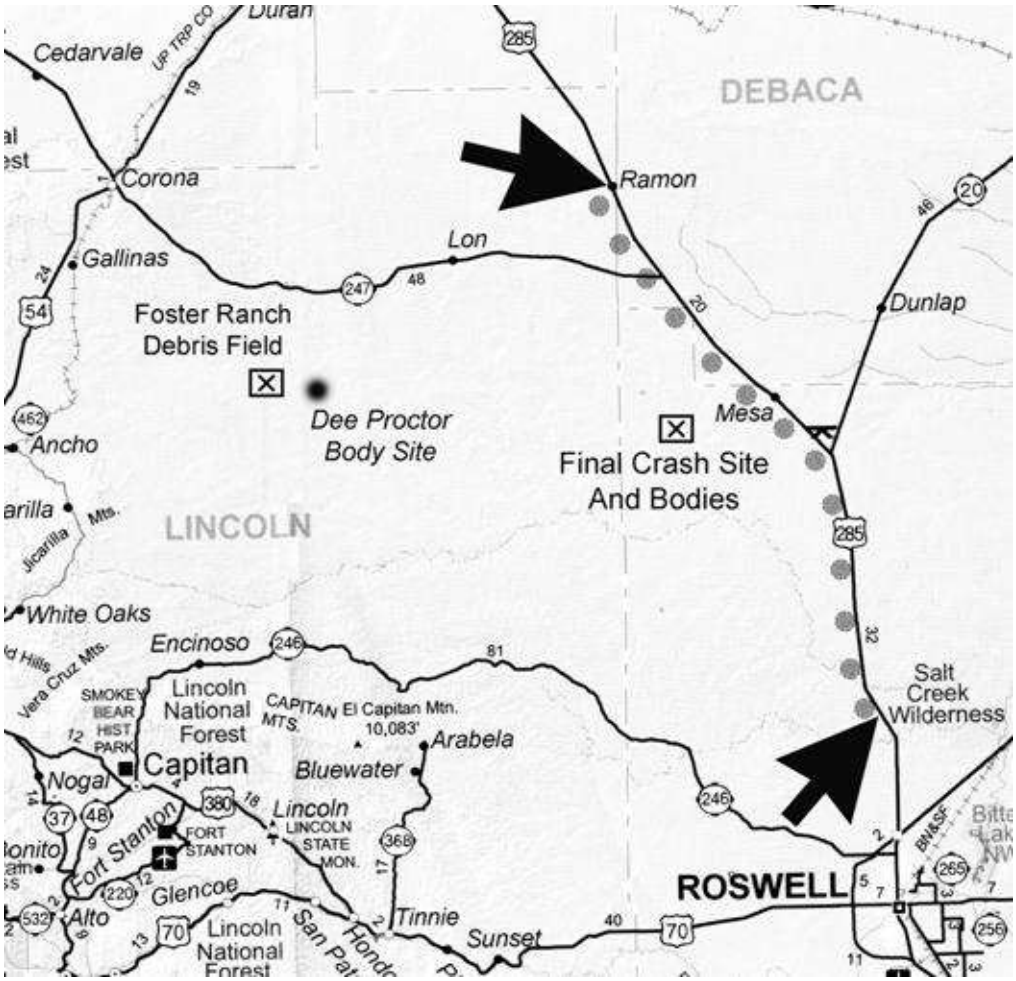
MILITARY CORDON SITE

Status: Public road.
Location: Beginning about 10-20 miles north of Roswell along Highway 285.
Accessibility: Publicly-accessible roadway.

William Woody remembered that he and his dad took to the road shortly after witnessing a very bright object zoom over their heads at the Woody Farm moving rapidly from the south to north. "My father thought it was a big meteorite and was convinced it had fallen to earth about 40 miles north of Roswell, probably just southwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 285 and the Corona road [State Highway 247]."

Although the elder Woody was very curious about the object, other concerns intruded, and he waited "two or three" days before deciding to travel north of town to try to find where the "meteorite" hit. "My father knew the territory, all its roads, and many of the people very well, so two or three days later (definitely not the next day), he decided to look for the object. He took me with him in our old flatbed truck. We headed north through Roswell on U.S. 285."

As the Woodys headed north out of town, they suddenly became aware of a military presence along Highway 285. The soldiers were posted as "sentries" to keep curious civilians from exiting Highway 285 and taking any of the roads leading into the desert to the west, toward Socorro. "About 19 miles north of town, where the highway crosses the Macho Draw, we saw at least one uniformed soldier stationed beside the road," William Woody testified. "As we drove along, we saw more sentries and Army vehicles. They were stationed at all places - ranch roads, crossroads, *etc.* - where there was access to leave the highway and drive east or west, and they were armed, some with rifles, others with side arms." The description is clearly that of a large-scale operation designed to keep the curious away from the vicinity.



Location of Military Cordon, Relative to Suspected Crash Sites (NMDOT Map)

Many UFO researchers have made the point that if the military was simply guarding the wreckage of an experimental high-altitude balloon, why would they post so many guards along all the roads leading into the desert north of Roswell? Similarly, if the only thing they were guarding was some strange debris at the Foster Ranch, located near Corona, why would they be sealing off all desert roads along Highway 285 so much closer to Roswell? To many, the heavy military presence seen by the Woodys is a strong indication that something more significant than a balloon had crashed somewhere in the desert north-northwest of Roswell, that it was something more noteworthy than just the Foster Ranch debris, and that it was, in fact, a crashed saucer and bodies. The military was taking definitive action to insure that as few people as possible found out about the so-called “second crash site,” where the UFO and bodies were found.

After noticing all the guards, William Woody and his dad stopped to inquire about the situation. “We stopped at one sentry post, and my father asked a soldier what was going on. The soldier, whose attitude was very nice, just said

his orders were not to let anyone leave 285 and go into the countryside." Clearly, researchers say, the soldiers were not told what they were guarding, or perhaps they were told that a secret government airship had crashed in the desert. Most of the Roswell Army Air Field soldiers to this day have no idea what their assignment was really about on that day in July 1947. All they have heard are rumors and insinuations, of which they themselves have no direct knowledge.

Woody and his father continued driving along Highway 285 to the north and noticed that the turn off to Corona was also blocked by the military. Furthermore, soldiers continued blocking exits from Highway 285 all the way to Ramon, which is about 60 miles from the Roswell city limits. Woody said, "As we drove north, we saw that the Corona road (State 247), which runs west from Highway 285, was blocked by soldiers. We went on as far as Ramon, about nine miles north of the 247 intersection. There were sentries there, too. At Ramon we turned around and head south and home."

Woody remembers his dad saying that the military was obviously looking for something out in the desert. "I remember my father saying he thought the Army was looking for something it had tracked on its way down. He may have gotten this from the soldier he spoke with during our drive up 285, but I am not sure."

Another witness also reported seeing a military cordon in the same area in 1947. University of Nebraska paleontologist Dr. C. Bertram Schultz told researcher Kevin Randle in 1993, that he saw soldiers blocking access to the desert west of Highway 285, as he was driving 15-20 miles north of Roswell. Schultz was one of several other witnesses whose testimony, although less specific, tended to corroborate William Woody's tale of a military cordon along the highway leading out of Roswell and extending north to the town of Ramon.

The Highway 285 cordon site can be viewed on the way to the Foster Ranch debris field, starting about 10 miles north of Roswell and continuing all the way to the turnoff for Highway 247. As you drive along this distance of approximately 20 miles, imagine the military manpower it must have taken to seal off all exits from this highway.

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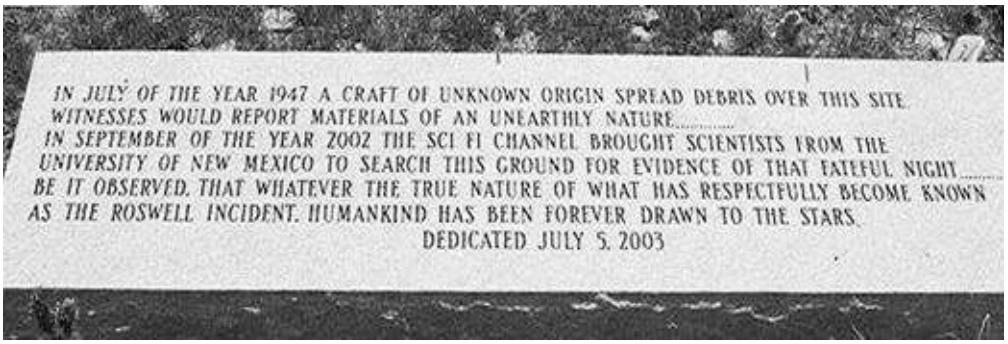
FOSTER RANCH DEBRIS FIELD

Status: Public land.
Location: Approx. 99 miles northwest of Roswell, near Corona, NM.
Accessibility: U.S. government property. Permission to access must be obtained in advance.

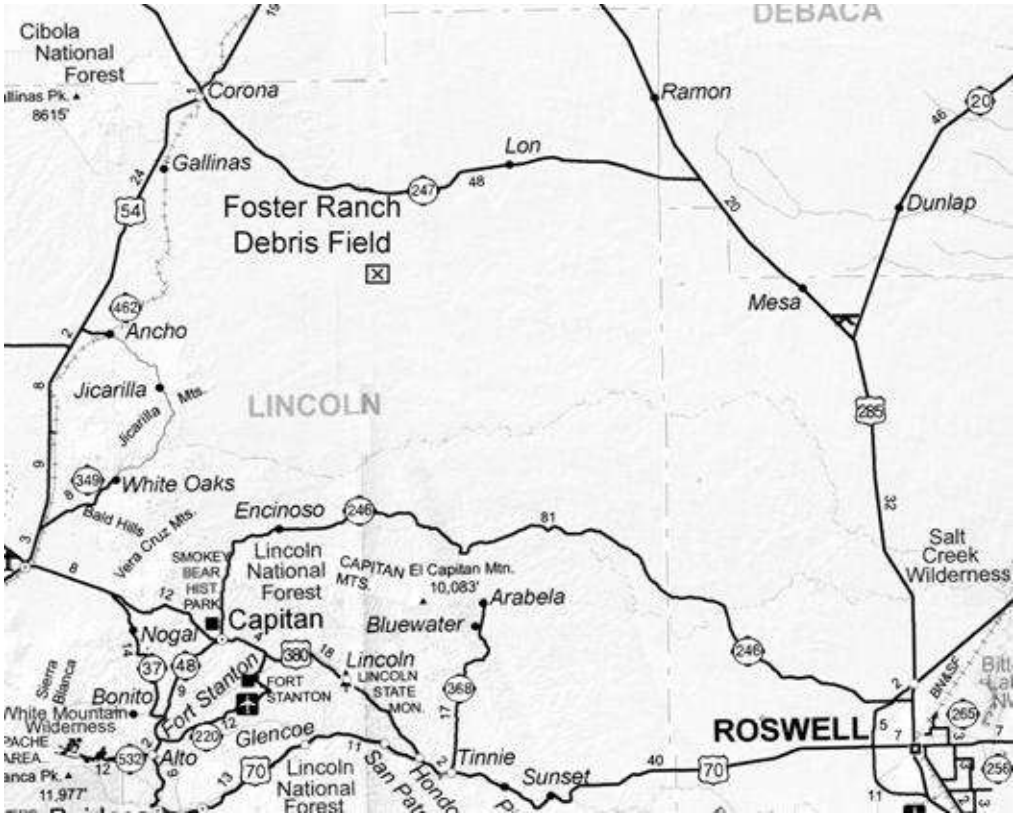
About a 99-mile drive northwest of Roswell, at the J. B. Foster Ranch near Corona, New Mexico, rancher William Ware "Mack" Brazel was listening to roaring thunder from a violent electrical storm over his ranch on the evening of July 4, 1947. Suddenly, he heard one particularly loud explosion that was distinctly unlike any of the other thunder booms. The same unusually loud explosive sound was also heard by a number of other residents of the area near the Foster Ranch.


IN JULY OF THE YEAR 1947 A CRAFT OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN SPREAD DEBRIS OVER THIS SITE.
WITNESSES WOULD REPORT MATERIALS OF AN UNEARTHLY NATURE.....
IN SEPTEMBER OF THE YEAR 2002 THE SCI FI CHANNEL BROUGHT SCIENTISTS FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TO SEARCH THIS GROUND FOR EVIDENCE OF THAT FATEFUL NIGHT.....
BE IT OBSERVED, THAT WHATEVER THE TRUE NATURE OF WHAT HAS RESPECTFULLY BECOME KNOWN
AS THE ROSWELL INCIDENT. HUMANKIND HAS BEEN FOREVER DRAWN TO THE STARS.
DEDICATED JULY 5, 2003
Marker Placed Near Foster Ranch Debris Field in 2003

On the following morning, while surveying the ranch to see the storm's effects, Brazel found a large debris field consisting of strange metallic fragments. Many UFO researchers believe the fragments were pieces of the flying saucer that had sustained damage during the violent electrical storm.

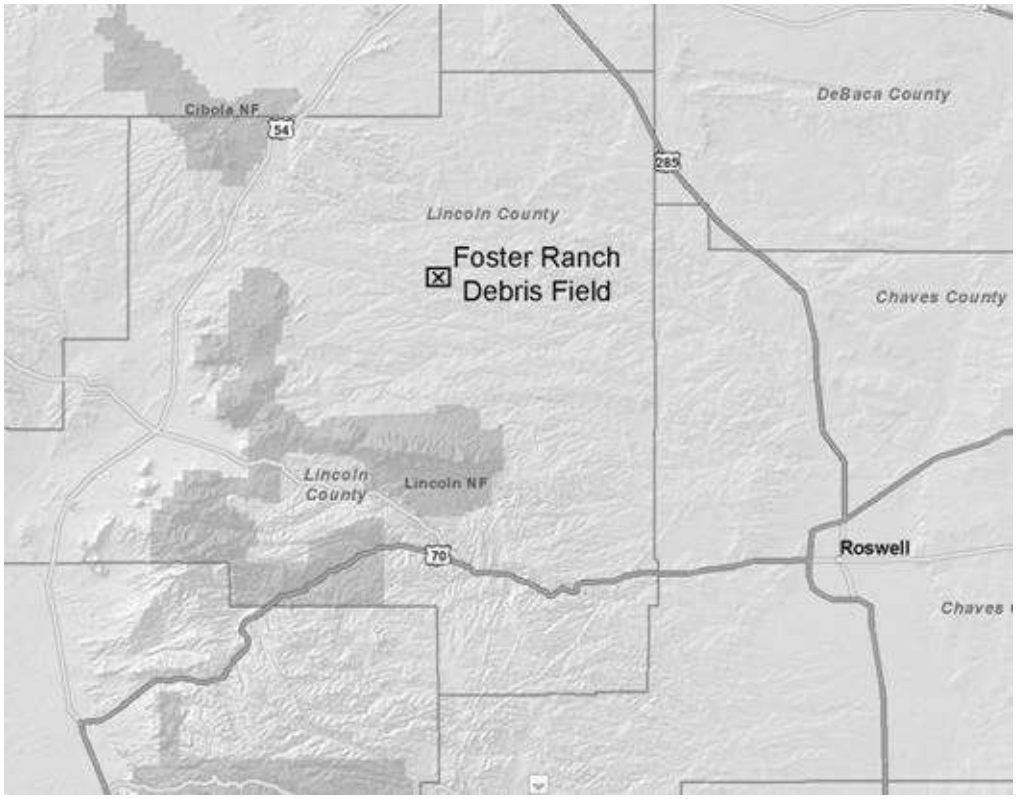
Although the Foster Ranch is only one of several "crash" locations that have been linked to the July 1947 UFO incident, this is the only one that everyone agrees on – even skeptics. That there was a field of unknown debris found at the Foster Ranch during the first week of July in 1947 is a universally accepted fact. To believers, the debris field was created by metallic fragments from a UFO. To

non-believers, it was debris from an experimental high-altitude balloon array designed to detect Russian nuclear tests, or it was some other man-made object.



The Foster Ranch Debris Site is Marked (NMDOT Map)

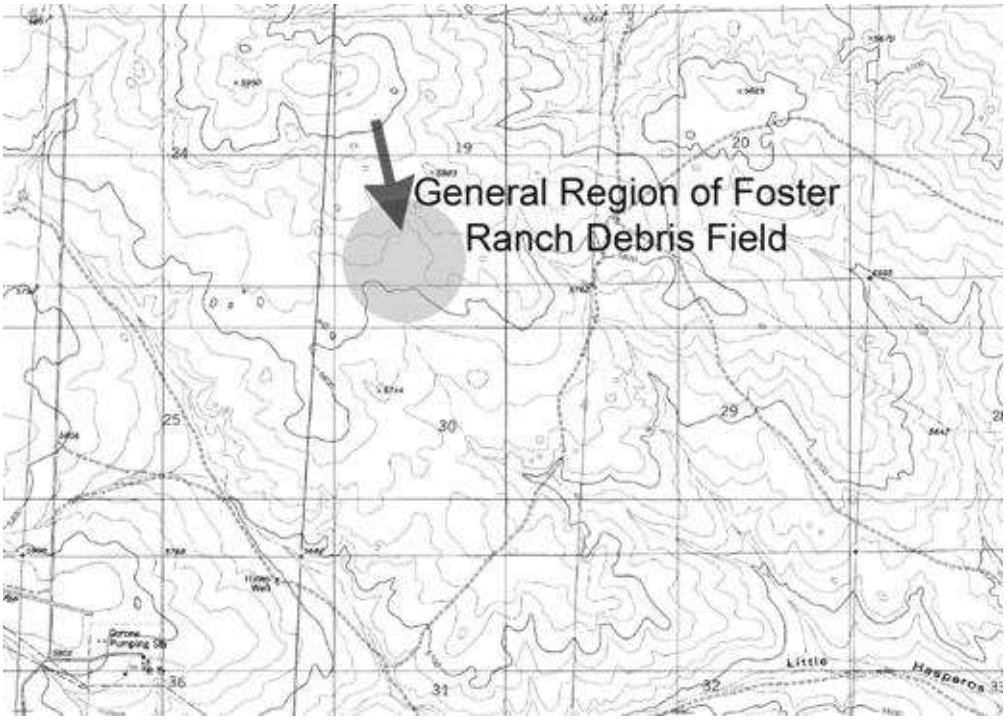
The drive to the debris field from Roswell is approximately 99 miles. The simplest way to reach the site is to take Highway 285 north from Roswell for about 58 miles and then turn left onto N.M. 247, going west for about 25 miles. Next, take another left onto county road B08/B014/E018, continuing for approximately 16 miles. Although the old Foster Ranch location now sits on public land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), it can only be reached by traveling across a three-mile stretch of privately owned land. Permission must be obtained from the property owners in advance of any visit. For more information about how to access this property, please contact the Roswell Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, at 2909 W. 2nd Street in Roswell. Their phone number is 575-627-0272.



General Area of Debris Field (U.S. BLM)

When traveling to the debris field site, members of the public are urged to respect all signs and fences put up by private landowners in the area and to abide by all federal regulations regarding public access to BLM lands. Federal law prohibits “defacing, disturbing, destroying or removing personal property, structures, livestock, archaeological resources, mineral resources or any natural resources.” There are also a number of other important laws and restrictions, about which more information can be obtained from the Roswell Field Office of the BLM.

Given its high significance to everyone searching for truth about the Roswell case, many researchers feel that the Foster Ranch location should be protected for future generations. The site is still the subject of a number of ongoing investigations about the 1947 event, and visitors should take great care to disturb nothing at the location, to take nothing from the site, and to leave nothing behind.



USGS Topographical Map of Debris Field Area

Even the federal government has taken steps to protect the Foster Ranch location, according to researcher Dennis Balthaser, “I must congratulate the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In a recent Environmental Assessment of the ranch where the debris site is located, the BLM protected the site in their report with the following statement: ‘One of the alleged UFO crash sites of 1947 is located on this allotment. The UFO crash site has been excluded from rights-of-way and mineral leasing. The site will be withdrawn from mining claim location, and designated a NSO (No Surface Occupancy) for oil and gas leasing.’ Even though the word ‘alleged’ is used in the BLM statement, it indicates to me, that someone within the BLM had the foresight to at least protect this property for the future.”

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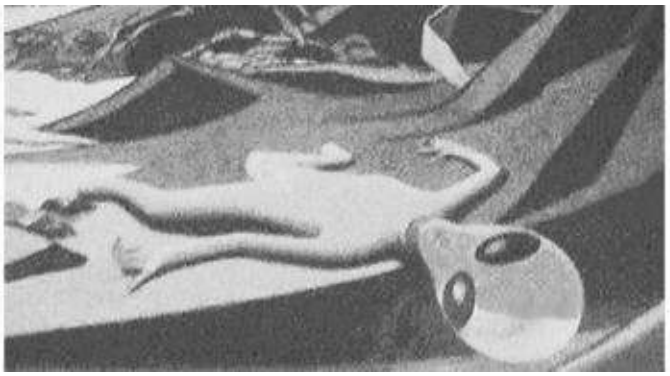
DEE PROCTOR BODY SITE

Status: Privately owned land.
Location: 2.5 miles east-southeast of Foster Ranch debris field.
Accessibility: Private property. No public access.

According to researchers Tom Carey and Don Schmitt, the Roswell UFO appears to have shed debris over the Foster Ranch and possibly "bounced" or "skipped," continuing to fly in distress until it finally crashed in northwestern Chaves County approximately thirty miles east-southeast of the ranch. Along the way to its final resting place, the UFO also dumped additional debris and two or three bodies at a location known as the "Dee Proctor Body Site."

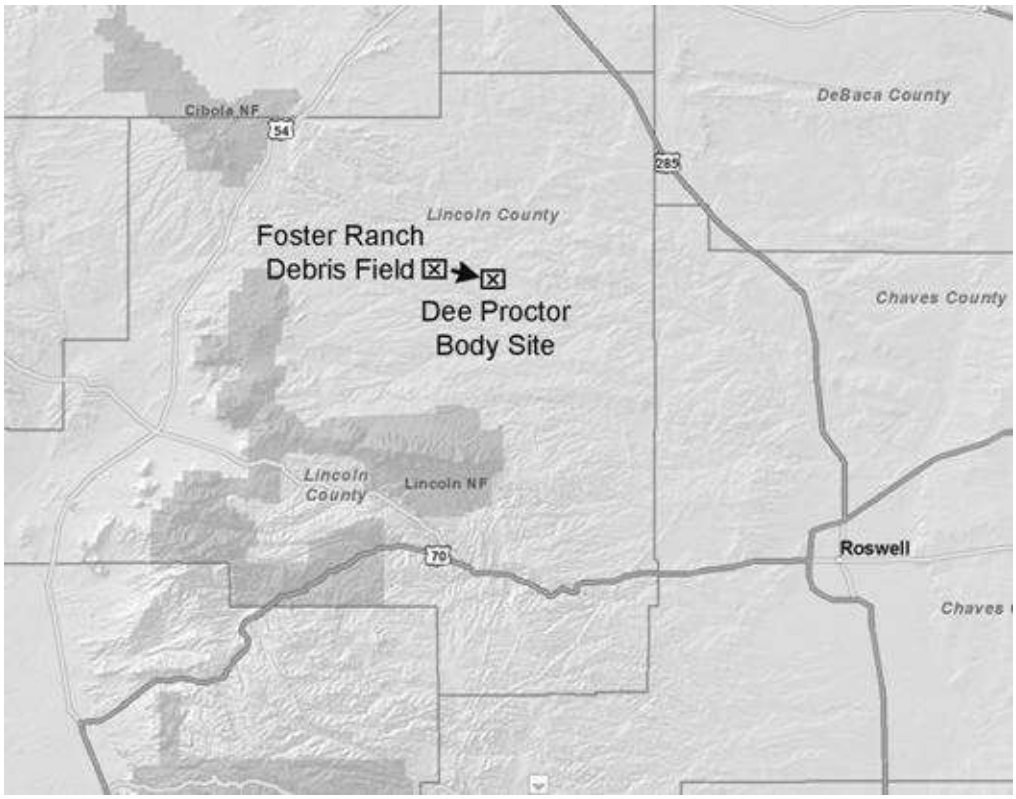


Mural at Roswell UFO Museum (2008 Photo by Noe Torres)

In their book *Witness to Roswell*, Carey and Schmitt tell the story of Timothy "Dee" Proctor, who was seven years old in 1947 and later told his mother that he was with Mack Brazel when Brazel found "something else" at a site about 2 ½ miles east-southeast of the Foster Ranch debris field. Although he never stated precisely what he saw, researchers believe that Proctor witnessed the finding of two or three non-human bodies and some additional debris from the UFO. These were the bodies that Mack Brazel supposedly spoke about during a phone conversation with KGFL radio announcer Frank Joyce on July 7, 1947.

Joyce stated in 1994 that, during the phone call, Brazel referred to the dead

bodies he had found at the ranch as “little people – unfortunate little creatures” and that the “stench” from their bodies was “just awful.” Joyce’s testimony about what he heard Brazel say forms the basis for the theory of the “Dee Proctor Body Site.”



Dee Proctor Site, Approximately 2.5 miles East-Southeast of Foster Ranch Debris Field (BLM Map)

Proctor, who passed away in 2006, refused all interview requests and remained totally silent about what he witnessed. His mother, however, filed an affidavit in 1991 stating that she had witnessed some of the strange metallic debris that Brazel had found scattered on the Foster Ranch. In the affidavit, she said, “In July 1947, my neighbor William W. ‘Mack’ Brazel came to my ranch and showed my husband and me a piece of material he said came from a large pile of debris on the property he managed. The piece he brought was brown in color, similar to plastic. He and my husband tried to cut and burn the object, but they weren't successful. It was extremely light in weight. I had never seen anything like it before. Mack said the other material on the property looked like aluminum foil. It was very flexible and wouldn't crush or burn. There was also something he described as tape which had printing on it. The color of the printing was a kind of purple. He said it wasn’t Japanese writing; from the way he described it, it sounded like it resembled hieroglyphics.”

The Dee Proctor body site is approximately 2.5 miles east-southeast of the Foster Ranch debris field, but it is not publicly accessible. The land is privately owned, and no tours are available. UFO researchers who have received special permission to visit the site report that no evidence or visible trace of any kind remains at this location.

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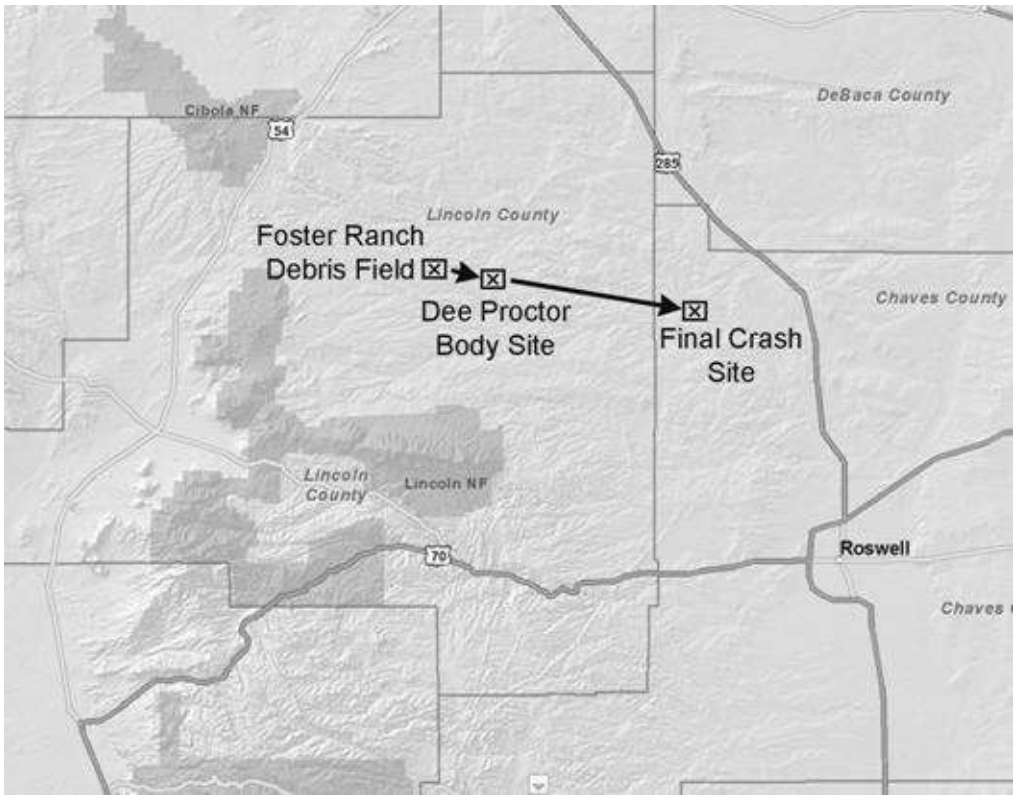
FINAL CRASH SITE

Status: Privately owned land. No public access.
Location: Approximately 30 miles east-southeast of Dee Proctor body site.
Accessibility: Private property. No public access.

Although there is universal agreement among UFO researchers that strange debris fell there, the Foster Ranch is not considered the final "impact site" of the Roswell UFO. A number of witnesses, including Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox and several Roswell firemen and police officers, reported seeing a crashed flying disk and the bodies of non-human entities at a location north of Roswell, not far from Highway 285.



Final Crash Site, Approx. 30 mi. E-SE of Proctor Site (BLM Map)

Don Burleson, in his publication *Roswell Trajectory Feasibility*, wrote, "By

all accounts, the Roswell UFO underwent some sort of disabling trauma (possibly a midair lightning strike) over the [Foster Ranch] Debris Field, scattering its debris over many acres of prairie and falling to earth somewhere down country. The real question, when one takes the Debris Field as the starting point for analysis, is then how far downrange is the object likely to have fallen?"

In their book *Witness to Roswell*, Tom Carey and Don Schmitt have proposed that the object recovered from its near-crash at the Foster Ranch, went on to eject debris and bodies at the Dee Proctor site, and finally crashed for good at a location approximately 33 miles east-southeast of the Foster Ranch It is at this final crash site, according to Carey and Schmitt, that three dead non-humans and one living being were later recovered by the military. This location is approximately 40 miles north-northwest of the Roswell city limits, which correlates generally with the reported site of a crashed spaceship and bodies mentioned by a number of Roswell witnesses, including Walter Haut (in his 2002 affidavit), KSWS general manager John McBoyle, and farmer William M. Moody's father. Other witnesses, such as Texas Tech University archeologist W. Curry Holden and Army CIC Master Sergeant Lewis S. "Bill" Rickett, also mentioned a site "north of town" somewhere along Highway 285.

Notably, this proposed site is in Chaves County, the governmental seat of which is Roswell, which may explain the involvement of Roswell firefighters, police, and other officials in the crash retrieval. The Foster Ranch Debris Field, on the other hand, is located in Lincoln County, which introduces a different layer of governmental involvement.

The general area of the final impact site, as identified by Carey and Schmitt, is located on private property and is not accessible to the public. Nor does any obvious, aboveground evidence of the UFO crash exist today. Researchers are quick to point out that Roswell witnesses stated that the military thoroughly cleaned the area of any remaining debris in the days following the crash.

UFO Crash Diorama at Roswell UFO Museum (Photo by Noe Torres)

While the Carey-Schmitt location remains of great interest to UFO researchers, it is not the only place that has been proposed for the "final crash site" of the Roswell UFO. In *Roswell Trajectory Feasibility*, Don Burleson favors a final impact site that is much closer to the Foster Ranch, perhaps within 16 miles of the debris field and well within the eastern boundary of Lincoln County. Burleson constructed a mathematical formula based on the UFO's altitude, its velocity, and the distance it travelled after being struck by lightning or by another object over the Foster Ranch. Using this formula, Burleson proposed that if the UFO was traveling at about 3,000 miles per hour at an altitude of 6,400 feet at the time it lost propulsion, it would have fallen 16.7 miles downrange from the Foster Ranch. The problem, of course, is that neither the true altitude nor the speed of the UFO are known, and we also do not know if the object immediately and irrevocably lost all propulsive power after being struck while flying over the Foster Ranch.

Stanton Friedman, the researcher who first brought the Roswell case to the public's attention in 1978, has proposed, as we will read in chapter 33, a final impact site much farther away. Friedman believes that a UFO crash event occurred in July 1947 near the tiny town of Old Horse Springs, on the Plains of San Agustin, located about 150 miles by air, from Roswell.

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WADE'S BAR IN CORONA

Status: Privately owned building.
Location: 540 Main Street in Corona, New Mexico.
Accessibility: Private property. No public access.

Although Roswell is most closely associated with the UFO incident of 1947, the tiny village of Corona is actually the closest inhabited place to the Foster Ranch debris field, which is about 30 miles to the southeast. With a year 2000 population of 165, Corona today remains an easily-overlooked refueling stop on U.S. Highway 54. Right after he discovered debris at the Foster Ranch, Mack Brazel is said to have first visited Wade's Bar in Corona to tell of what happened, before going on to Roswell.

1999 Photo of the Former Wade's Bar (Courtesy of Dennis Balthaser)

Brazel was a regular customer at Wade's Bar, which was the only such establishment in the Corona area and the closest bar to the Foster Ranch. Jesse Wade purchased the bar in 1936 and operated it until 1976, two years before his death.

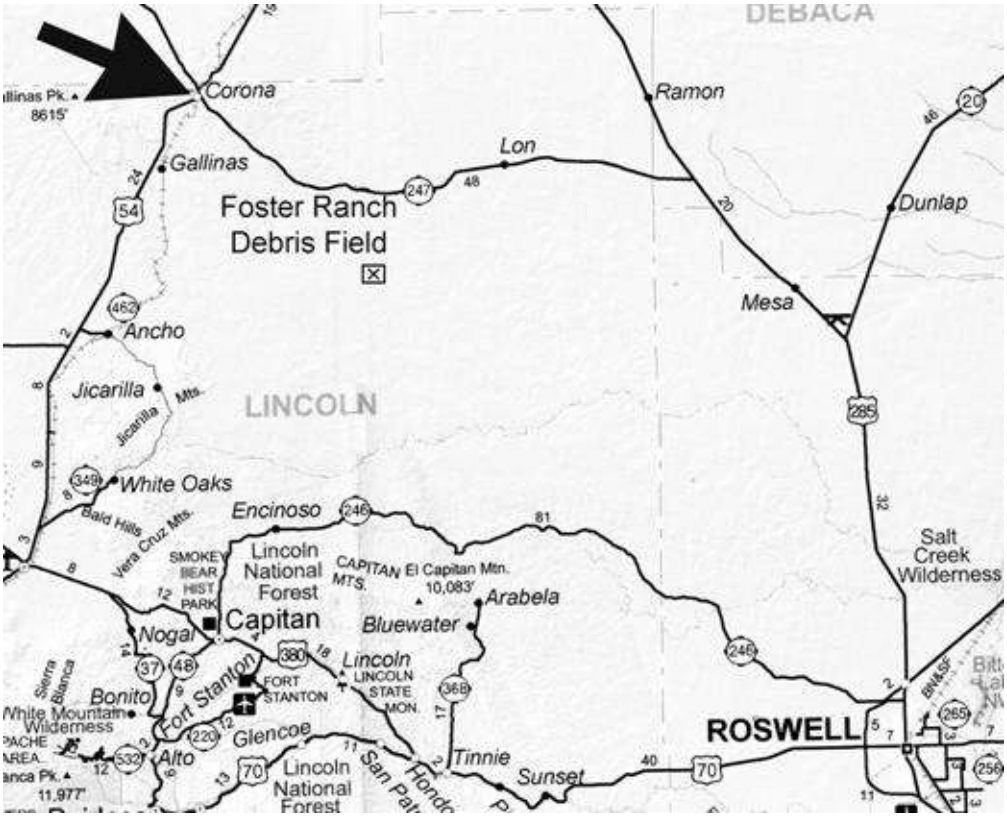
The Former Wade's Bar (1999 Photo Courtesy of Dennis Balthaser, www.truthseekeratroswell.com)

Brazel reportedly stopped by the bar and told owner Jesse Wade about what he had seen. Wade's son, Chuck, in a 2004 interview with researcher Linda Moulton Howe, said, "Mack Brazel drove up in an old pick-up truck, came up to my Dad and wanted Dad to go out to the Foster Ranch to see what in the world had crashed there."

Brazel told Jesse Wade that what fell on his ranch was "stuff he had never seen before." Deciding that he needed to stay at the bar, Wade told Brazel that he could not go. "Dad was the only person working at the bar and he chose not to close the bar and go with Mack," Chuck recalls. "Yes, Dad did later regret not going with Mack."

The rancher then went to the nearby Duboise Drugstore to use a phone, presumably to call somebody in Roswell and tell them about his find. This may have been the call Brazel made to Frank Joyce of KGFL radio in Roswell. Chuck Wade said, "After Mack left Dad's bar he went a few doors south to the drug store. Geraldine Perkins told me on two occasions, in the presence of her daughter Sherrill, about Mack coming in to the drug store and trying to get her

husband, Archie, to go out to the Foster Ranch and see what had crashed out there. Archie did not go with Mack. Geraldine said she helped Mack make a phone call to Roswell."



Map Showing Corona, New Mexico (NM Dept. of Transportation)

Some versions of the story have Brazel actually bringing one or more pieces of the debris with him to Wade's Bar a day or two after the crash. Chuck Wade is skeptical, though. "Dad never mentioned that Mack had any of the crash material with him," Chuck said. "And Dad mentioned several times that Mack *never* spoke to him about the crash again after that first encounter." Although, according to Chuck, Mack Brazel never mentioned the strange incident again, Mack's son, Bill, did talk about it and about the strange debris found scattered around the Foster Ranch.

In *The Roswell Incident*, Bill Brazel told the authors, "One night about two years after Dad's incident, I went into Corona for the evening. While I was there, I guess I talked too much – more than I should have. I know I mentioned having this collection [of debris from the UFO crash] to someone. Anyway, the next day a staff car came out to the ranch from Roswell with a captain and three enlisted men in it. Dad was away at the time, but it turned out they didn't want him anyway. They wanted me."

"Seems the captain – Armstrong. I think his name was, Captain Armstrong – had heard about my collection and asked to see it. Of course I showed it to him, and he said that this stuff was important to the country's security and that it was most important that I let him have it to take back with him… I didn't know what else to do, so I agreed."

Recent Photo of the Building That Was Formerly Wade's Bar

As the soldiers prepared to depart, Armstrong asked if Brazel had examined the material. Brazel said that he studied it long enough to realize that "I don't what the hell it is." Armstrong replied, "We would rather you didn't talk very much about it."

In *Crash at Corona*, Bill Brazel describes the strange debris as falling into three categories. First, there was some material "on the order of balsa wood." Brazel tried whittling the wood-like material with his pocket knife but could not cut it in the least. Second, there was some string-like material that looked like "heavy-gauge monofilament fishing line." He tried breaking the filament and could not. Finally, there was a little piece of what looked like "tin foil." The foil-like material was, by far, the most interesting to Brazel. "I happened to notice when I put that piece of foil in that box and the damn thing just started unfolding and just flattened out! Then I go to playing with it. I'd fold it, crease it, lay it down and it'd unfold. It's kind of weird. I couldn't tear it."

In a presentation he gave at the 2nd Annual UFO Crash Retrieval Conference in 2004, Jesse Wade's son, Chuck, confirmed that after the Roswell crash, Bill Brazel showed up in his dad's bar. However, according to Chuck, not only did Brazel *talk* about the crash debris he had found, but he actually showed several pieces of the crash debris to interested bystanders. Patrons of the bar marveled at

the strange properties of Brazel's material. This impromptu "show and tell" at Wade's Bar did not go unnoticed, and shortly thereafter, RAAF soldiers visited Bill Brazel at the Foster Ranch and took the pieces of debris away from him.

Chuck also remembers talking to Bill Brazel's brother, Vernon, about the strange debris found near Corona. "Bill's younger brother, Vernon, and I are about the same age. When Vernon would come to town, he and I would play together. I can recall that we spoke about the UFO that crashed on the Foster Ranch."

As of this writing, the building in Corona, New Mexico that formerly housed Wade's bar is now abandoned. The building is located at 540 Main Street in Corona, and visitors may take photos from the street side. Please do not enter private property without obtaining the owner's permission in advance.

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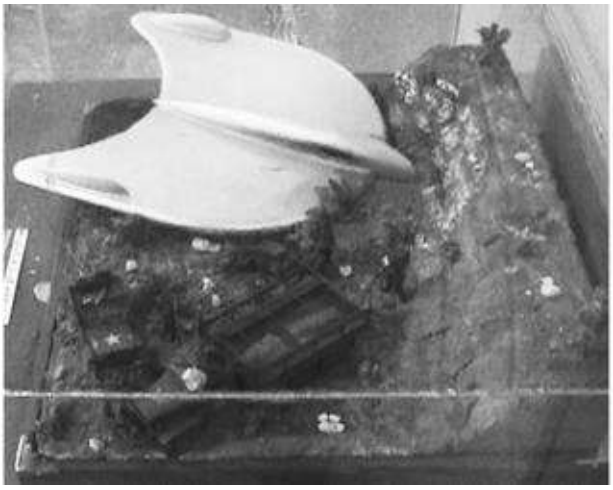
PLAINS OF SAN AGUSTIN

Status: Privately owned land.
Location: Old Horse Springs, New Mexico. 255 miles west of Roswell.
Accessibility: Private property. Public access only to Old Horse Springs.

Stanton Friedman and other researchers say that a UFO, possibly the same one involved in the Roswell Incident (or perhaps a second craft), slammed to the ground approximately 150 aerial miles west of the Foster Ranch, on the Plains of San Agustin in Catron County. This crash occurred at about the same time as the Roswell Incident. It has been proposed that perhaps two UFOs were involved in a mid-air collision over the Foster Ranch, one falling in the desert north of Roswell and the other in Catron County. Or, perhaps this westernmost UFO crash was a totally separate event, unrelated to the Roswell case, except for having occurred at about the same time.

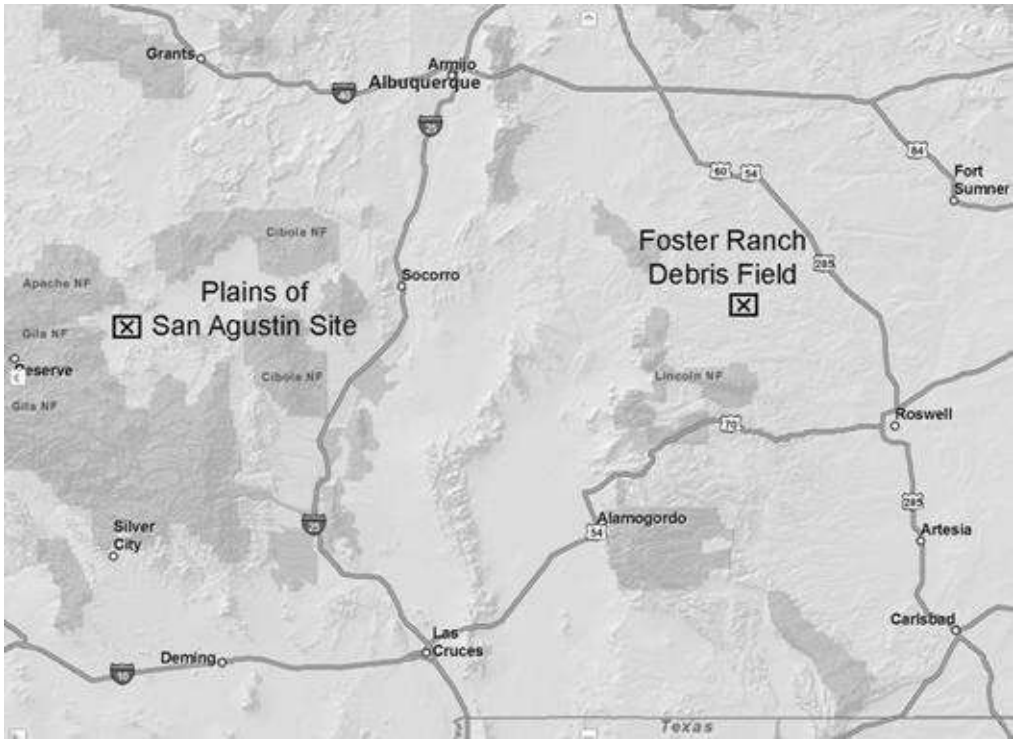


Diorama at Roswell UFO Museum (2008 by Noe Torres)

The story of a crash in the general vicinity of the Plains of San Agustin first came to light in *The Roswell Incident*, a 1980 book by Charles Berlitz and William Moore. Stanton Friedman was the primary researcher for the book, which tells the tale of Barney Barnett, a resident of nearby Socorro, New

Mexico, and a civil engineer for the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service. According to friends, Barnett claimed that he saw a crashed UFO and the bodies of several "little guys."

Barnett's only description of where exactly this event took place, according to friends, was "the San Agustin Plains, out past Magdelena." Barnett died in 1969 of throat cancer that he claimed was due to his exposure to radiation at the scene of the UFO crash. He was never interviewed by UFO researchers, and his story did not come out for years. Although he never wrote down any account of his encounter, he did tell his story verbally to his close friends, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Maltais, who later told it to the authors of *The Roswell Incident*:



BLM Map Showing San Agustin Site Relative to Foster Ranch Site

"I was out on assignment, working near Magdelena, New Mexico, one morning when light reflecting off some sort of large metallic object caught my eye. Thinking that a plane may have crashed during the night, I went over to where it was – about a mile, perhaps a mile and a quarter away on flat desert land. By the time I got there, I realized it wasn't a plane at all, but some sort of metallic, disc-shaped object about twenty-five or thirty feet across. While I was looking at it and trying to decide what it was, some other people came up from the other direction and began looking around it too. They told me later that they were a part of an archaeological research team from some eastern university and

that they too had first thought a plane had crashed. They were all over the place looking at the wreck.

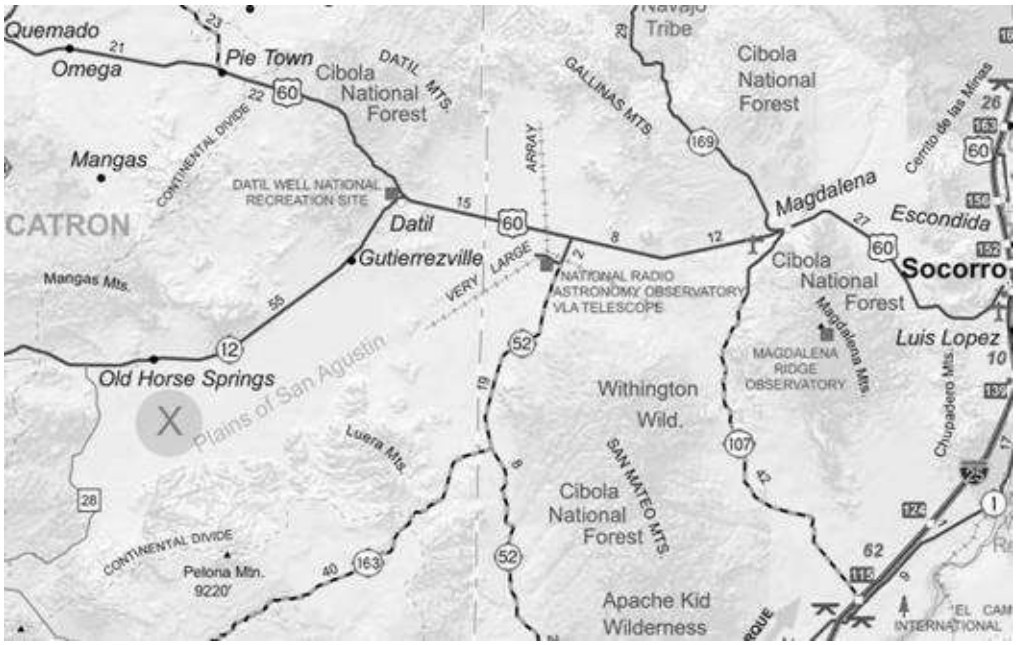
"I noticed that they were standing around looking at some dead bodies that had fallen to the ground. I think there were others [dead bodies] in the machine, which was a kind of metallic instrument of some sort – a kind of disc. It was not all that big. It seemed to be made of a metal that looked like dirty stainless steel. The machine had been split open by explosion or impact.

"I tried to get close to see what the bodies were like. They were all dead as far as I could see and there were bodies inside and outside the vehicle. The ones outside had been tossed out by impact. They were like humans but they were not humans. The heads were round, the eyes small by our standards and their heads were larger in proportion to their bodies than ours. Their clothing seemed to be one-piece and gray in color. You couldn't see any zippers, belts, or buttons. They seemed to me to be all males and there were a number of them. I was close enough to touch them but I didn't -- I was escorted away before I could look at them anymore.

"While we were looking at them, a military officer drove up in a truck with a driver and took control. He told everybody that the Army was taking over and to get out of the way. Other military personnel came up and cordoned off the area. We were told to leave the area and not to talk to anyone whatever about what we had seen … that it was our patriotic duty to remain silent" (Berlitz & Moore, pg. 60, 61).

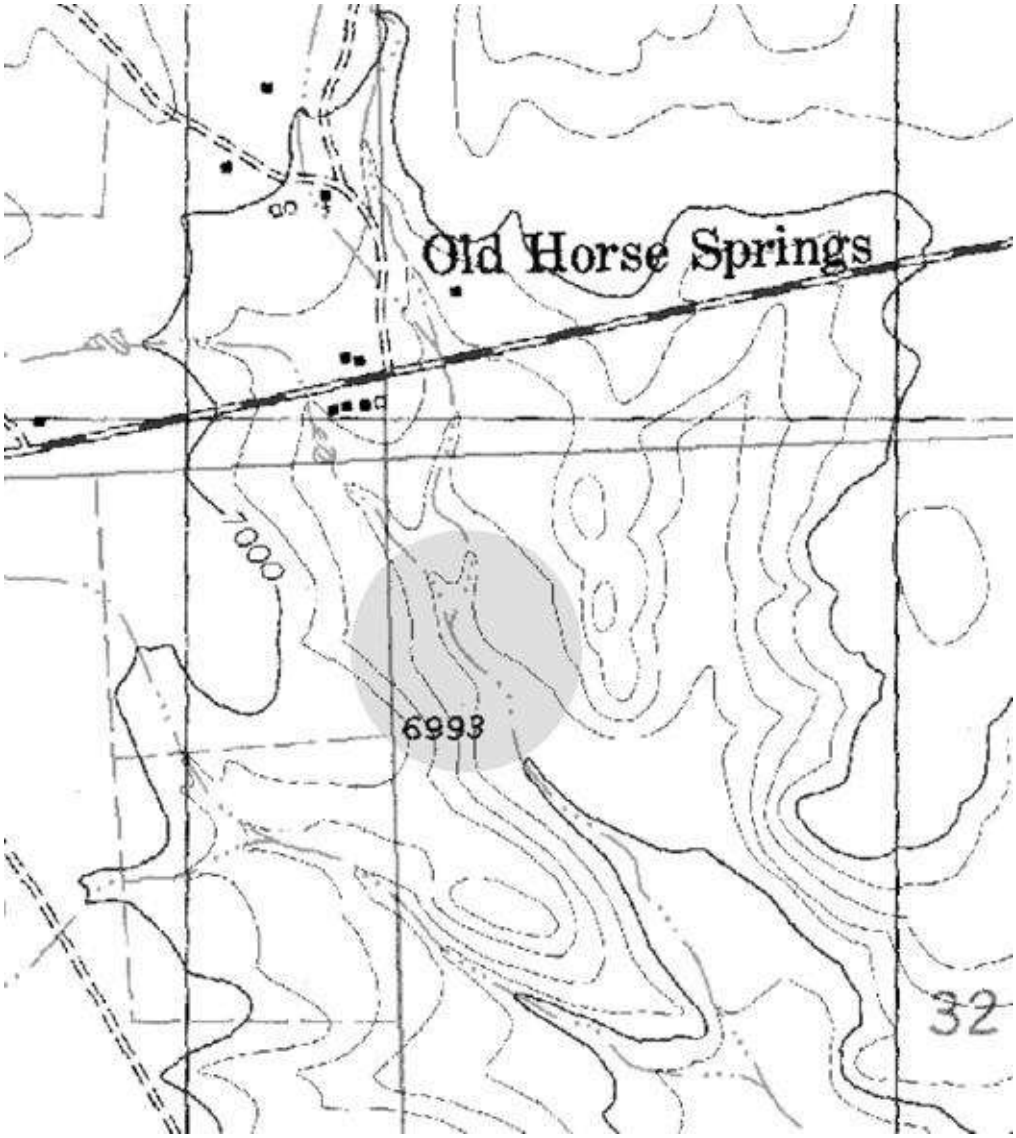
From Roswell, it takes slightly over five hours to drive the 265 miles to a very desolate site in the Plains of San Agustin. From Socorro, go west on Highway 60 for 62 miles, and then take Highway 12 to the southwest. You will see the massive radio telescope antennae of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, the Very Large Array. Continue on Highway 12 for 40 miles until you reach Old Horse Springs. As you stand on the south side of Highway 12 and look off to the south-southeast across the plains, you are looking right at the area where the UFO crash is generally believed to have occurred.

It is important to note that the land south and southeast of here is privately owned and not accessible to the public. Please respect all fences, gates, and signs. In addition, unwitting visitors wandering around on foot often encounter dangerous rattlesnakes that live throughout this area. Unless you are able to arrange with the local landowners for a private tour of their property, the best location for sightseeing is south of Highway 16 at Old Horse Springs.



Circle Shows General Area of San Agustin Crash, According to the Research of Art Campbell & Stanton Friedman (NM-DOT Map)

Until 1990, Barney Barnett's story, told to friends in the 1960s, remained the only evidence of a UFO crash in the Plains of San Agustin. In 1990, hope of new information arose when a self-proclaimed eyewitness, Gerald Anderson, came forward after watching an episode of NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries* about the Barnett case. Anderson claimed that on July 5, 1947, at age five, he had visited the San Agustin crash site while rock hounding with his father and other family members and that he saw Barney Barnett and the archeologists at the scene of the crash.



BLM Map of General Area Endorsed by Friedman, Campbell, and others

Anderson's story is told in Kevin Randle's *The Encyclopedia of Roswell*: "When we got over there... they [creatures] were up underneath this thing. They weren't scattered around all over the area. This vessel was not torn open. The side was torn out of it and there was a lot of cables and junk like that... But there were four occupants. Three were on the ground underneath the thing and one was sitting up next to it, like he was sunning himself. It was hot out there."

The creature that was sitting appeared "terrified of its fate." It seemed extremely fearful of being hurt or killed by Anderson and his party. "It had a slightly perceptible nose. I never saw a mouth. I don't know if he had one or not. I never really saw that. I think the thing that struck me the most were the eyes. The size of the eyes and the gentleness of those eyes. His head was... a child who has hydrocephalus... Have you ever seen that? It kind of reminds me of that. It

was much larger than it should have been by my perspectives as a child. The person was much paler than we are. This could be shock. I don't know... he was very pale. I didn't see hair on his head.

“He was wearing... all of them, all four of them, were wearing what appeared to be uniforms. They were small in stature. Their hands were the kind of hands you'd see on a violinist. They were almost effeminate... so they were long and slender, almost effeminate.... He had bruising on his head like he'd been scraped. Like thrown against something. He didn't do much moving, but when he did, it appeared he was in pain.

“The other three, that were on the ground. They looked like this other one had tried to help them. They were, like laying side by side. They were bandaged. I think this... some kind of bandage or rags or something, but it looked like they were injured, I can't recall... yeah, yeah, maybe there was blood.”

Within a minute or two, according to Anderson, he noticed the approach of a group of people, who had been working at an archeological dig southwest of where the UFO crashed. It is believed that the archeological team had been working at a nearby site known as the Bat Cave. Anderson believed the archeologists to be from a university in Pennsylvania, but he was not sure.

Anderson noticed that some of the visitors picked up pieces of debris and stuffed them in their pockets. However, this activity ended abruptly a few minutes later with the arrival of the U.S. military.

The soldiers immediately confronted the entire group of civilians gathered around the crashed UFO, threatening them with the harshest of consequences if they ever spoke about what they had seen. “There was a captain... he had red hair,” Anderson remembered. “He threatened everyone there with the most incredible things you could possibly believe... First off, he told my father if he repeated this he would see to it that he would spend his entire life in a military prison and he would never see his children again. He threatened me with if you ever opened your mouth you'll never see your parents again….”

Anderson’s story seemed credible, even bearing up to a polygraph test conducted in 1991, after which the polygraph examiner said that he found “no evidence of deception or of pathology” (Berliner & Friedman, p. 96). Nonetheless, Anderson was later accused of embellishing his story, and changing various aspects of it, while being interviewed for numerous TV and radio shows; however, some researchers argue that the basic facts of his story remain valid, despite the fact that years later, Anderson apparently tried to capitalize on his “fame” by adding more details to his original story. He also later admitted to forging a document unrelated to his eyewitness testimony, which further hurt his credibility.

Interestingly though, while under hypnosis, Anderson recalled the name of one of the archeologists that he claimed to have seen in 1947 on the Plains of San Agustin. He gave the man's last name as "Dick," which led UFO researcher Art Campbell to look for persons named "Dick" who were archeologists working in New Mexico in 1947. Campbell scored a monumental "bingo" when he came across the story of Herbert W. Dick, a Harvard University graduate student, who spent the first week of July 1947 excavating a formation called the "Bat Cave," about ten miles south of Old Horse Springs.

Although Dick and other archeologists on his team never admitted being at San Agustin in July 1947, and some of the team members flatly denied it when interviewed, Campbell found in the archives of Harvard University a letter that proves they were there. "Our party proceeded to the Plains of San Augustin on July 1, 1947," Dick wrote. "I asked his [the landowner's] permission to run exploratory trenches in Bat Cave and explained my plans in detail. He readily granted this permission and we established a camp at the foot of the cave and began trenching."

Campbell had his answer – a team of archeologists, including Herbert W. Dick were definitely excavating within ten miles of where a UFO crashed in the first week of July 1947. This appears to agree with Barney Barnett's statement that he saw a group of archeologists "from some eastern university," who had arrived at the site of the crashed UFO before he had. As to why the Harvard archeologists would deny being at the site, Campbell speculates that they all wanted to preserve their academic credentials and did not want their names associated with a bizarre, controversial event for which they had no explanation. In addition, they were likely told by the military, as all of the Roswell witnesses were, never to speak about what they saw.

It may well be that the long-belittled and little-acknowledged crash site on the Plains of San Agustin may yet play a pivotal role in unraveling the Roswell mystery.

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DISPUTED CRASH SITES

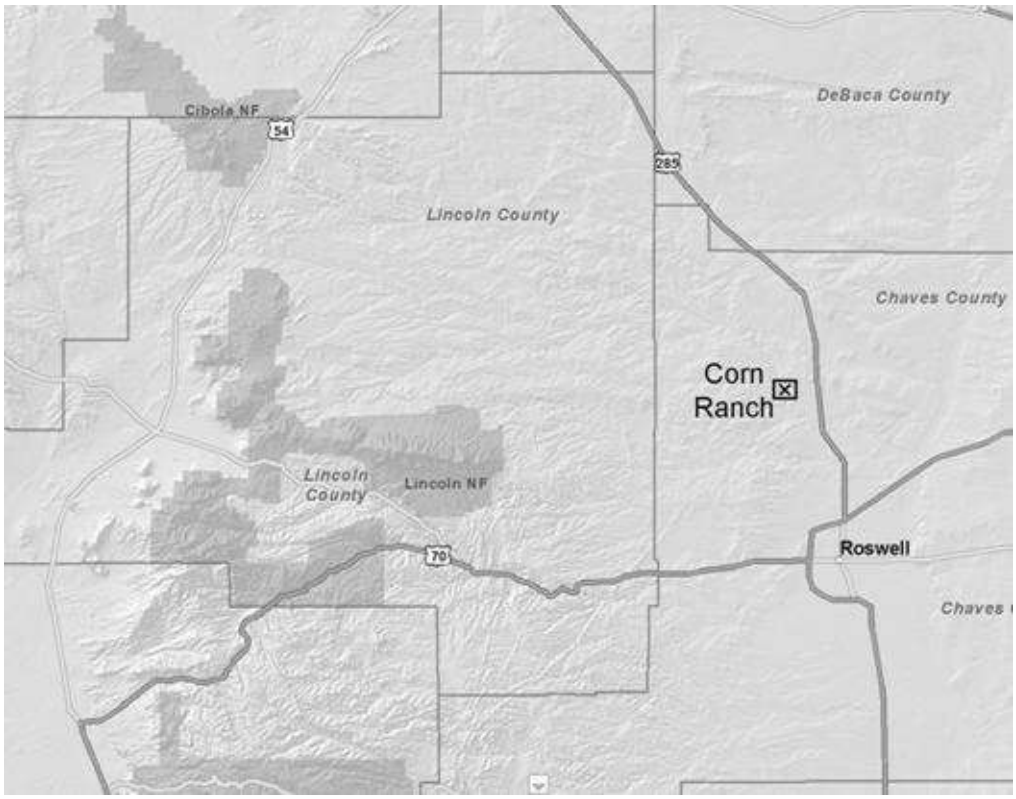
Site #1: Corn Ranch.
Status: Privately owned.
Location: Approximately 20 mi. N. of Roswell, just off of Hwy 285.
Accessibility: Private property. Permission from landowner must be obtained.

For a while in the mid-1990s, researchers believed that the final impact site of the Roswell UFO may have been at a ranch north of town. This location, known as the "Corn Ranch" site, is now generally regarded as bogus by most investigators; nevertheless, it remains an interesting footnote in the history of the Roswell Incident. In 1993, local resident Jim Ragsdale made a stunning revelation about his alleged role in the 1947 Roswell incident. At about 11:30 p.m. on July 4, 1947, Ragsdale and his girlfriend, Trudy Truelove, were enjoying a romantic interlude while parked at an improvised campsite about 20 miles north of Roswell, just off of Highway 285, a location now known as the "Corn Ranch" site. Their tryst was suddenly interrupted by an intense flash of light and a loud roaring sound pass overhead. Ragsdale immediately perceived that an object, possibly an aircraft, had crashed within a mile of his location.

Randle and Schmitt wrote, "Ragsdale said that it was a flaring bright light, blue-gray like that from an arc welder. At first he thought that it was a lightning strike not far from him, but then he saw the object as it roared over his campsite. Seconds later it slammed into the ground about a mile or so from the camp."

In Randle's 2000 book *The Roswell Encyclopedia*, Ragsdale's original (1993) affidavit appears: "On a night during July, 1947, I, James Ragsdale, was in the company of a woman in an area approximately forty (40) miles northwest of Roswell, New Mexico during a severe lightning storm. I and my companion observed a bright flash and what appeared to be a bright light source moving to the southeast. Later, at sunrise, driving in that direction, I and my companion came upon a ravine near a bluff that was covered with pieces of unusual wreckage, remains of a damaged craft and a number of smaller bodied beings outside the craft. While observing the scene, I and my companion watched as a

military convoy arrived and secured the scene. As a result of the convoy's appearance we quickly fled the area. I hereby swear the aforementioned account is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge and recollection."



Corn Ranch Site (Courtesy U.S. BLM)

When Ragsdale first revealed his story, researchers speculated that the same UFO that ejected metallic debris on the Foster Ranch may have then continued airborne before finally crashing near where Ragsdale and Truelove were camping on the night of July 4. However, after many contradictions arose in Ragsdale's story, consideration of the Corn Ranch as a legitimate crash site began to slowly erode. Nonetheless, fans of the Roswell Incident may still enjoy a visit out to this site.

The Corn Ranch location can be accessed by driving north from Roswell for 20 miles on Highway 285 until you come to Eden Valley Road. The actual site is several miles back toward the west, but this is private property and is not open to the public. Visitors are urged to do their viewing and take their photos only from the public roadway. The landowner, Herbert Miller "Hub" Corn, has in the past conducted escorted tours of his property, but, as of this writing, such tours have been discontinued. The Corn Ranch phone number is 505-623-4043.

If you are able, with permission, to tour the ranch, please be advised that

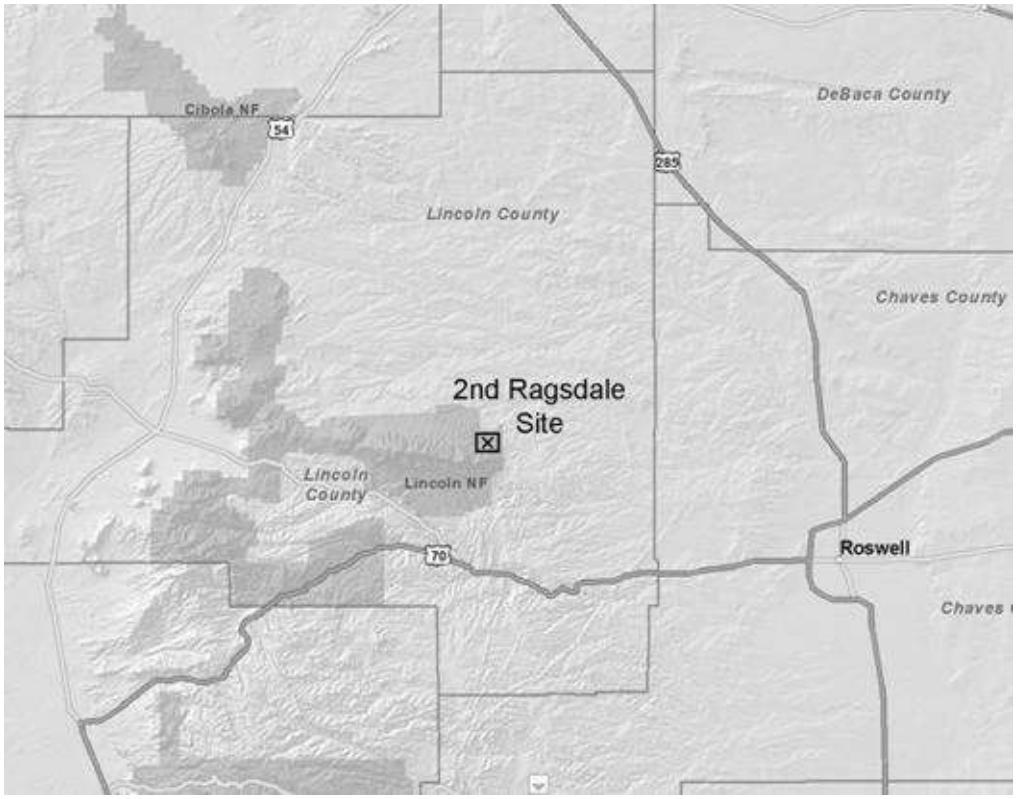
rattlesnakes and scorpions are two very grave dangers to anyone walking this land. Appropriate footwear and a snake kit are recommended, as well as constant vigilance while walking.

Site #2: Second Ragsdale site.
Status: Public land.
Location: Approximately 60 mi. NW of Roswell.
Accessibility: Public land. Four-wheel drive recommended.

Shortly before his death in 1995, Jim Ragsdale dropped another bombshell. He gave a second affidavit contradicting many of the facts stated in his 1993 affidavit and asserted that the "final" UFO crash site was not at the Corn Ranch, but at a location near Boy Scout Mountain, about 32 aerial miles west-northwest of the Corn Ranch. In Max Littel's 1996 book *The Jim Ragsdale Story: A Closer Look at the Roswell Incident*, Ragsdale is quoted as saying, "… about 11:30 the night of July 4, 1947, all hell broke loose. From the northwest, there was a big flash, an intense, bright explosion, and then, shortly thereafter, with a noise like thunder, this thing came plowing through the trees, shearing off the tops, and then stopped between two huge rocks. It was propped up against one rock. It was about twenty feet around. As it was approaching, huge streams like fire were coming out from behind. After the impact, silence.

"The damn thing stopped about sixty yards from the pickup, and we thought at first it was going to hit us. After the impact, we were scared, but curious. We went down to the crash of this disc-like thing. There was a hole in one side about four feet wide and two feet high. There was junk scattered around the disc, and we picked some of it up. I looked inside the hole, and inside, there was a chair that looked like a throne. It looked like it was made of rubies and diamonds.

"There were other little chairs, four or five, and a lot of instruments on a panel. There were also the little people, four of them. They looked like midgets, about four feet long. Their skin, if it was skin, was sort of gray and when I touched one of them, it felt like a wet snake."



2nd Ragsdale Site, From 1995 (BLM Map)

While it may serve as an interesting footnote in Roswell history, the release of the second Ragsdale account was not well received by UFO researchers and was regarded with great suspicion and doubt. While Ragsdale's original story seemed credible, although lacking in much detail, his "revised" story was far less believable, and it changed too many of the original facts that Ragsdale had sworn to back in 1993. Unfortunately, the "revised" story also greatly hurt the credibility of Ragsdale's original story, and many researchers now disregard both of his accounts altogether. Nevertheless, the entire Ragsdale affair remains an interesting yarn for persons interested in the Roswell case.

If the second Ragsdale story interests you, the "revised" location of the alleged UFO crash can be reached as follows: From Roswell, head west on West 2nd Street, which is Highway 70/380, and travel approximately 43 miles to the intersection of N.M. 368 (Pine Lodge Road). Turn right on 368, heading north for 14.3 miles before turning left at County Road B040 for about a mile. A four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended for the final mile of the trip.

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SUGGESTED TOURING PLANS

If you wish to follow the chapter sequence in this book for your self-guided tour, you will notice that we start your tour in downtown Roswell, viewing all the sites around town first, then move you south to look at all the sites at the old Roswell air base, and finally, we take you north out of Roswell to experience the last few sites, which are not close to town at all. To visit all the sites included in this book (at a fairly hectic pace) will take at least five days. At a slower pace, it might take six or seven days.

In this chapter, we propose some modified touring plans based on the number of days you will be in the Roswell area. These plans are useful if your time in Roswell is limited or if you wish to view only the most important sites.

Touring Plan # 1: Roswell Only (One Day)

Description: This plan is for visitors who have only one day to spend in Roswell and would like to see the major sites located within town. Plan on a very full day (8 to 10 hours of touring).

Chapter 01: Marcel Residence

Chapter 03: Roswell Fire Station

Chapter 04: Roswell Police Station

Chapter 05: **Sheriff's Office**

Chapter 06: Roswell Daily Record

Chapter 07: KGFL Radio Station

Chapter 08: KSWS Radio Station

Chapter 09: **Roswell Morning Dispatch**

Chapter 11: Military Convoy Route

Chapter 13: Whitmore Residence

Chapter 15: **RAAF Chapel**
Chapter 16: **RAAF Entrance / Main Gate**
Chapter 17: **RAAF Guest House**
Chapter 19: **Roswell AAF Hospital**
Chapter 20: **RAAF Officer's Club**
Chapter 21: **RAAF Water Tower**
Chapter 22: **Building 84**
Chapter 24: **RAAF Fire Station**
Chapter 25: **RAAF Flight Operations**
Chapter 10: **UFO Museum** (2 hours recommended)

Touring Plan # 2: Roswell Only (Two Days)

Description: This plan is for visitors who have two full days to spend in Roswell and would like to explore all the major sites located within town. Plan on 6 to 8 hours per day of touring.

Day One

Chapter 01: Marcel Residence

Chapter 02: Wilmot Residence

Chapter 03: Roswell Fire Station

Chapter 04: Roswell Police Station

Chapter 05: **Sheriff's Office**

Chapter 06: Roswell Daily Record

Chapter 07: KGFL Radio Station

Chapter 08: KSWS Radio Station

Chapter 09: **Roswell Morning Dispatch**
Chapter 12: **Ballard Funeral Home**

Chapter 13: Whitmore Residence

Chapter 14: **St. Mary's Hospital**

Day Two:
Chapter 15: **RAAF Chapel**
Chapter 16: **RAAF Entrance / Main Gate**
Chapter 17: **RAAF Guest House**
Chapter 18: **Blanchard Residence**
Chapter 19: **Roswell AAF Hospital**
Chapter 20: **RAAF Officer's Club**
Chapter 21: **RAAF Water Tower**
Chapter 22: **Building 84**
Chapter 23: **RAAF Headquarters**
Chapter 24: **RAAF Fire Station**
Chapter 25: **RAAF Flight Operations**
Chapter 26: **Incinerator Site**
Chapter 27: **Woody Farm** Chapter 10: **UFO Museum** (2 hours recommended)

Touring Plan # 3: Three Days

Description: This plan is for visitors who have three full days to spend in Roswell and want to do everything that's publicly accessible except for the most remote site (Plains of San Agustin). The first two days of this touring plan are exactly the same as Touring Plan # 2 (see above). For the third day, use the sequence shown below. The total time at the sites on day three is variable, but will likely take an entire day (6 to 8 hours). Important note: Please contact the Roswell office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management several days in advance of a visit to the Foster Ranch Debris Field for suggestions on how to visit the site.

Day One & Day Two: Same as in Touring Plan # 2.

Day Three:

Chapter 28: **Military Cordon Site**
Chapter 29: **Foster Ranch Debris Field** (Permission Required)
Chapter 32: **Wade's Bar in Corona**

Touring Plan # 4: Five Days

Description: This plan is for visitors want to see absolutely everything that is publicly accessible, including the Plains of San Agustin, which is a five-hour drive away from Roswell. The first three days of this touring plan are exactly the same as Touring Plan # 3 (see above). The fourth day will be spent making the five hour drive to the Plains of San Agustin, sightseeing there, and then spending the night at the area's only lodging option, the Eagle Guest Ranch. You may want to wait on visiting the UFO Museum until after you return to Roswell on day five of the tour.

Day 1-3: Same as Touring Plan # 3.

Day Four:

1. Drive west from Roswell on Hwy 360 for about 150 miles, until you reach Interstate 25. Take IH 35 north for about 9 miles to Socorro, NM, and then head west on U.S. Highway 60 for 62 miles, to Datil. The total driving time should be a little over 5 hours.
2. Check in at the Eagle Guest Ranch, located at U.S. 60 & State Highway 12 in Datil, NM. Phone number is 575-772-5612.
3. Drive an additional 28 miles farther south on Hwy 12 to reach Old Horse Springs, the general area of the **Plains of San Agustin UFO Crash**.
4. After sightseeing, return to Datil for overnight stay.

Day Five:
Drive Back to Roswell.

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OTHER ROSWELL ATTRACTIONS

During your visit to the Roswell area, you should resist the urge to so completely immerse yourself in crashed flying saucers, dead alien bodies, and military cover-ups that you have no time for anything else. For relaxation purposes, and to help preserve your sanity, make an effort to take in some of the excellent non-UFO related entertainment and recreation options available to you in Roswell. After all, surely even the UFO occupants must enjoy some occasional rest and recreation, no? Perhaps their visits to our Earth are even part of some kind of galactic touring operation?

Roswell Museum and Art Center
100 West 11th Street
575-624-6744

www.roswellmuseum.org

Although it is not a complete departure from outer space themes, the Roswell Museum and Art Center offers a wonderful and inspiring journey back into history, as well as into the creative imagination of great artists and thinkers. The museum features the Robert Goddard Collection, telling the story of the U.S. rocket scientist who helped get the nation's space program off the ground and spent several years in the Roswell area developing and test-firing liquid fueled rockets. Exhibits include actual rockets built by Goddard in the 1930s, as well as a fascinating recreation of the workshop where he hand-crafted them. The scientist is also honored at the adjacent Robert H. Goddard Planetarium, which is a great place to learn more about outer space.

The museum, which is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., also features exhibits on the history and culture of the Southwest, as well as excellent collections of regional art, including the works of Peter Hurd, Henriette Wyeth Hurd, Georgia O'Keefe, and others. The museum has much to offer, and best of all, admission is free.

Spring River Park and Zoo
1306 East College Blvd.
575-624-6760
roswellzoo@dfn.org

Featuring the only free zoo in New Mexico, Spring River Park covers about 36 acres of parkland with five main zoo areas, including an exhibit of native animals, a children's zoo, a wooden horse carousel, a miniature train ride, and a section for exotic animals from around the world. The zoo features more than 250 animals of 60 different species.

The park's antique wooden horse carousel is one of only about a hundred left in the country and features hand carved horses from various artisans. Visitors from all over the world stop by to look at this historic carousel. In addition, guests can take a ride around the park in the Spring River Park's miniature train. The park also features a small lake, covered picnic shelters, a playground and lots of shade trees to help beat the desert heat.

The park opens at 10 a.m. all year round, and is closed only on Christmas day. It closes at 8 p.m. from Easter until Labor Day, and closes at 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. the rest of the year. Call or e-mail for exact hours.

Historical Center for Southeast New Mexico

200 North Lea Ave.
575-622-8333
www.hssnm.net

At the center of all learning about the Roswell region's colorful and complex history is the Historical Center for Southeast New Mexico. Visitors are free to browse through a vast collection of antiques, artifacts, and memorabilia located in the various rooms of the historic James Phelps White home, in which the center is located. The center also features an adjacent archives building containing over 11,000 photographs, thousands of books and manuscripts, obituaries, newspaper articles dating back to the early 1900s, and other documents.

The center is a wonderful place to visit both for persons who are simply curious about the region's history and for more serious researchers who are studying a particular topic related to local history. The center and its staff have been indispensable to authors of books such as this one, about the famous 1947 Roswell UFO Incident. As of this writing, the Historical Center is open only three hours a day, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week.

Roswell July 4th Celebration
Citywide Events
575-623-5695
www.roswellnm.org

In 1947, Roswell had a Fourth of July like none other, with rumors of a crashed flying saucer north of town, mysterious wreckage, alien bodies, a military cover-up, and more. Now, every year, the city holds a citywide July 4th celebration like few others in the country, with numerous events going on throughout the area starting around July 1 and continuing for several days after the Fourth.

The city's July 4th celebration is anchored by its world-famous UFO Festival, featuring numerous lectures and presentations about the Roswell UFO Incident and other UFO cases. The festival is centered at the Roswell UFO Museum at 114 South Main Street, where well-known Roswell researchers give lectures and speak to museum visitors about their attempts to uncover the longstanding mysteries of the case. As a supplement to the museum's UFO programs, the city also hosts a number of UFO-related speakers at the Roswell Convention Center, 912 South Main Street, just eight blocks north of the museum.

One of the highlights of the celebration is the spectacular Mike Satterfield Fourth of July Fireworks Show, sponsored by Roswell's Sertoma Club. Started in 1997, the fireworks show has thrilled thousands of Roswell residents and visitors. It is held at Cielo Grande Park, 1612 West College Avenue, but is also visible all over town. The 30-minute show is choreographed to patriotic music and features multiple, electronically-timed bursts, designed to "paint the sky" in colorful patterns. Prior to the fireworks, free concerts and other events are held at Cielo Grande.

Bottomless Lakes State Park
12 Miles East on US 380; Then South on NM 409 for 3 Miles
575-624-6058
www.nmparks.com

A natural attraction whose unusual features are a perfect complement to Roswell's UFO stories, Bottomless Lakes State Park consists of several small lakes bordered by high red bluffs. The lakes, ranging in depth from 17 feet to 90 feet, are actually water-filled sinkholes carved out of the local gypsum terrain. The lakes' greenish-blue color creates the illusion that they are bottomless. The idea that they were bottomless grew when local cowboys tried to find the bottom of the lakes by tying their saddle ropes together and were not able to.

Due to its strange geology and water chemistry, the park is home to several unusual plants, like the Pecos Sunflower, and animals. Sightseeing opportunities abound, as well as a variety of activities such as hiking, swimming, fishing and scuba diving. During summer, visitors can rent paddleboards and pedal boats for a small fee.

Bottomless Lakes, which became New Mexico's first state park in 1933, features Lea Lake, the deepest lake at 90 feet and the only one where swimming is permitted. Another lake is the 32-foot deep Devil's Inkwell, named for its steep sides and dark water, the result of algae growth. For the fishermen, both Devil's Inkwell and Cottonwood Lake are stocked with rainbow trout in winter.

Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge
N. Main St., East on Pine Lodge Rd., About 7 Miles
575-622-6755
www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/bitterlake

Located where the Chihuahuan Desert meets the Southern Plains, Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge is one of the more biologically significant wetland

areas of the Pecos River watershed system. Established in 1937 to provide wintering habitat for migratory birds, the refuge plays a crucial role in the conservation of wetlands in the desert southwest.

Straddling the Pecos River, Bitter Lake NWR is truly a jewel, a wetland oasis inhabited by a diverse abundance of wildlife species. The refuge protects and provides habitat for some of New Mexico's most rare and unusual creatures such as the least shrew, Noel's amphipod, least tern and Roswell spring snail.

A total of 357 bird species have been identified here, along with a significant dragonfly population. The refuge offers boundless opportunities for bird watching, wildlife photography, hiking, hunting, and biking. Tours are offered from October to May.

Roswell Public Library
301 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
575-622-7101
roswellpubliclibrary.org

Yes, the Roswell Public Library has all the *Roswell Daily Record* newspapers from July 1947 on microfilm, and a large number of books about UFOs, too! In fact, the library contains a total of over 150,000 items on every topic under the sun, a vast collection that includes books, DVDs, CDs, microfilm, microfiche, magazines, videotapes, and more. The library also offers a spacious children's area, a large collection of online resources, and free wireless Internet access throughout the library.

The library is a great place to read more about the Roswell Incident, or any other topic that interests you. As its hours of operation vary somewhat, please call the library or visit their Web site shown above.

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ROSWELL HOTELS

Maybe food and sleep are not very important to the ETs, but we humans

certainly can't go far without a bit of both. Luckily, Roswell has a nice selection of good eats and comfortable places where we can snooze before heading out again to the next important UFO site. Using the intersection of Main Street (Hwy 285) and 2nd Street (Hwy 380) as our central reference point, the six hotels below are listed beginning with the one that is closest to the center of town, the Fairfield Inn & Suites, located less than one mile away. The farthest is the Hampton Inn, which is about 3 and a half miles north. All six of these hotels are located on or near Main Street, and all of them are north of our center point.

1. Fairfield Inn & Suites
1201 North Main St.
(575) 624-1300
marriott.com

Located directly across Main Street from the Roswell Convention Center, the 3-story-tall Fairfield Inn offers a free hot breakfast, free parking, free in-room Internet access, and room rates starting at about $140 per night. Although a bit pricier than our other choices, this member of the Marriott chain is one of the nicest hotels in Roswell. It features 42 rooms plus 25 suites.

2. La Quinta Inn & Suites
200 E 19th St
(575) 622-8000
lq.com

Located a little over a mile from town center, the La Quinta Inn & Suites is just east of the intersection of Main and 19th Street. In addition to free breakfast, free parking, and free Internet, the La Quinta adds a microwave and refrigerator to each guest room at no extra charge. Rates start at $109 per night.

3. Best Western Sally Port Inn & Suites
2000 North Main St
(575) 622-6430
bestwesternnewmexico.com

Rated three stars by AAA, the Best Western Sally Port Inn is located right across the street from the New Mexico Military Institute, just north of 19th Street on Main. It offers free breakfast, free parking, free Internet, heated indoor pool,

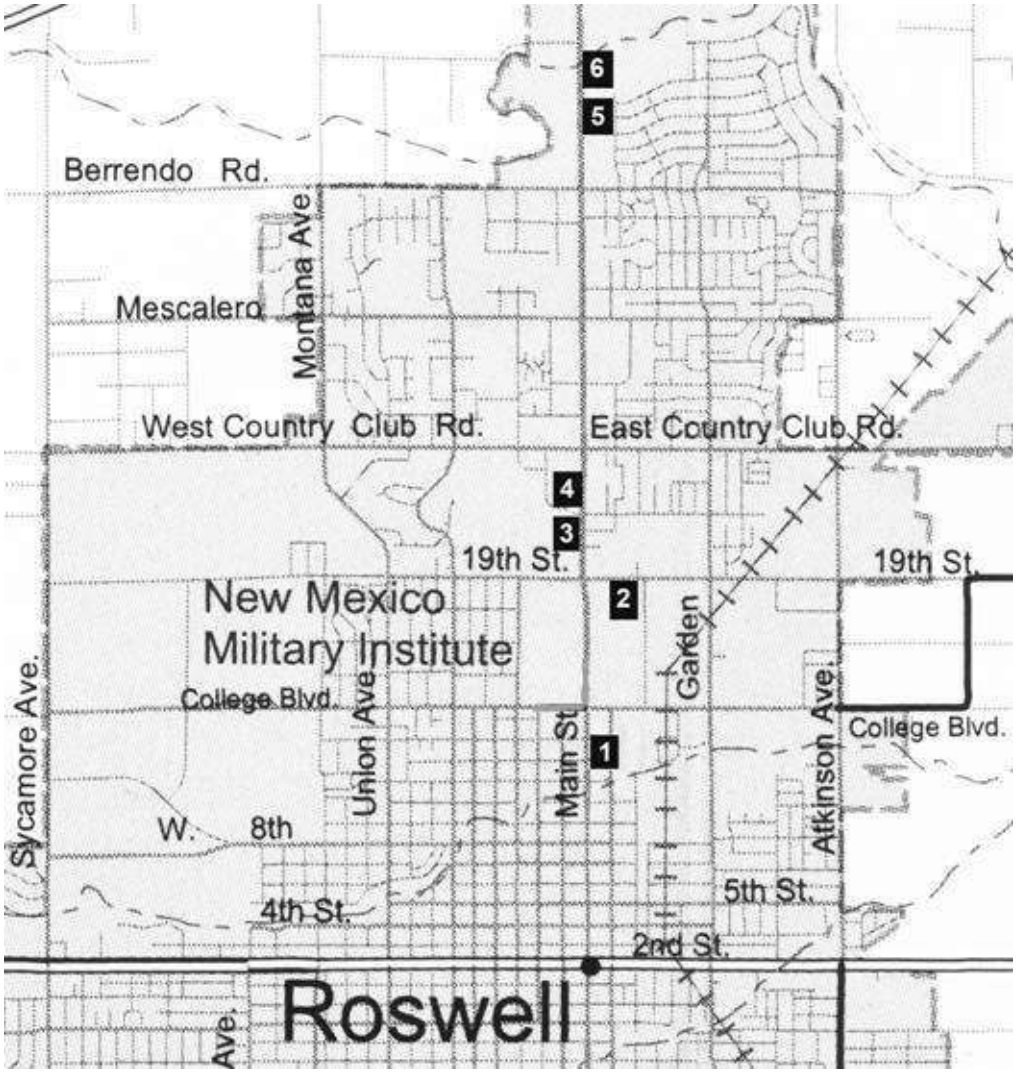
and free hotel shuttle. The facility has 124 rooms and a restaurant and sports bar. Best of all, room rates start at $89 per night.

4. Holiday Inn Express
2300 North Main St.
(877) 863-4780
hiexpress.com

Another comfortable place to stay, the Holiday Inn Express is two miles from town center, located at Main and 23rd Street. The property has 80 rooms and offers free breakfast, free parking, free wireless Internet, free evening snacks, an indoor pool, and a number of other amenities. Rates start at about $125 per night.

5. Comfort Inn Roswell
3595 North Main St.
(575) 623-4567
www.comfortinnroswell.com

Located about three and a half miles from the center of town, Roswell's Comfort Inn is a bit far from the "action" but an excellent choice nonetheless. It is close to Roswell's main shopping venues, which are on the north side of town, as well as restaurants and movie theaters. Breakfast, Internet, and parking are again all free, and guest rooms offer both a microwave and a refrigerator. The hotel also features a nice indoor pool, and rates start at around $60 per night, which makes this the most economical of our choices.



Map Showing Our Six Suggested Hotels

6. Hampton Inn
3607 North Main St.
(575) 623-5151
hamptoninn.com

Our sixth recommendation is the farthest away from the town center but is a well-reviewed and well-apportioned property. Part of the Hilton Hotel chain, this Hampton Inn offers upgraded beds, complimentary hot breakfast, indoor pool, high-speed Internet, free parking, and rates starting at $130 per night.

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ROSWELL RESTAURANTS

Roswell has been referred to as a “fast food” town, since it features a large variety of those national chains we are all too familiar with. In this chapter’s small but carefully-selected list of Roswell restaurants, we will steer away from fast food and national chains, focusing instead on local eateries and small restaurant chains with unique menu offerings. Without further ado, we boldly go in search of the best intergalactic refueling stations in the alien capital of the world.

Cattle Baron
1113 North Main St.
(575) 622-2465
cattlebaron.com

Two of our favorite Roswell restaurants are owned and operated by Cattle Baron Restaurants, Inc., a Roswell-based regional chain with eateries in Roswell, Clovis, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Ruidoso, as well as in three Texas cities – Lubbock, Midland, and El Paso. The Cattle Baron at 1113 North Main is an excellent steakhouse, featuring an everything-made-from-scratch approach, hand-cut beef, and an out-of-this-world salad bar. Reservations recommended. Prices are moderate to expensive.

Tia Juana’s Mexican Grille & Cantina
3601 N. Main St
(575) 627-6113
www.tiajuanas.net

One of the “perks” of staying at the Comfort Inn or Hampton Inn north of town is that both hotels are within an easy walk of our favorite Mexican / New Mexican restaurant, Tia Juana’s Mexican Grille & Cantina. Another of the Cattle

Baron Restaurants, Tia Juana's is a great, relaxed setting offering fresh, tasty fare, including hand-made tortillas, spicy enchiladas, tamales, chile relleno, Mexican steaks, Mexican pizza, roasted chicken, and homemade salsa. If not exceptional, the dishes here are consistently well prepared and served with a smile. Prices are moderate.

Portofino Italian Restaurant
701 S. Main St
(575) 622-2311

An unexpected delight in the middle of cowboy country, Portofino has quickly gained a reputation for serving high-quality Italian food in an informal, relaxed setting. Fresh bread and large portions of pasta, salads, pizza, subs, and desserts make this a great place to eat in Roswell. Moderate prices.

Pasta Café Italian Bistro
1208 N. Main St
(575) 622-1111
pastacafeitalianbistro.com

Yes, there are two highly regarded Italian restaurants in Roswell, the second being a little bit north of Portofino's. Locally owned and operated by Andre and Yvonne Buonaiuto since 1993, the Pasta Café Italian Bistro specializes in homemade pastas and specialty dishes such as Braised Veal Shanks, Lasagna, Portobello Trifolato, Veal Marsala, Sesame Salmon, Slow Roasted Prime Rib, along with a variety of other flavorful Italian favorites. Moderate to expensive.

Rib Crib BBQ and Grill
4495 North Main St.
(575) 625-1200
www.ribcrib.com

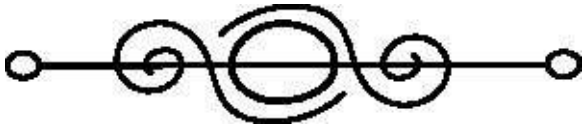
Okay, this is part of a chain, but one with very few locations (only two in New Mexico), and the food is outstanding. Specializing in lightly seasoned, hickory-smoked St. Louis Pork Ribs and meaty, tender Baby Back Ribs, the Rib Crib also offers great brisket, sausage, chicken, and turkey. Since most of this chain's restaurants are in Oklahoma and Arkansas, the Roswell location is a refreshing and welcome addition to the local barbecue scene. Moderate.

Cattleman's Steak House
2010 S. Main St.
(575) 623-3500

What can we say? Roswell is in the heart of cattle country, and the locals love their steaks. Second in popularity only to the Cattle Baron, Cattleman's Steak House is sure to satisfy your heartfelt desire for a large hunk of cow! Great steaks, excellent barbecue, friendly service, and low prices. What else could one ask?

Chew's West
2509 W 2nd St
(575) 622-6484

In a town not noted for its Asian restaurants, Chew's offers fairly standard Chinese buffet fare. The eatery is notable, however, because of its founder and former owner, Jack Chew, a World War II gunner who served at the Roswell Army Air Field and later operated a succession of Chinese restaurants in Roswell. Although Chew no longer owns it, Chew's West remains a favorite of many locals and should satisfy the desires of Chinese food devotees. Inexpensive to moderate.



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EPILOGUE

So, what happened in Roswell *after* all the amazing events of July 1947? How could everyone just forget that such an important thing had taken place here? Well, perhaps the answers to these questions can be found by considering the following key events in Roswell's history.

Atlas-F Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (Dept. of Defense Photo)

In 1948, Roswell Army Air Field officially became Walker Air Force Base, as the former Army Air Force morphed into its own unique branch of the military. In the ensuing years, Walker AFB became the largest Strategic Air Command (SAC) base of the U.S. Air Force during the Cold War era. Launching from Walker AFB were giant B-29 and B-36 bombers designed to carry nuclear payloads in case a nuclear threat arose from the Soviet Union. Also, scattered in and around Roswell, were twelve Atlas-F nuclear missile silos that fell under the operational command of Walker AFB.

The Atlas silos were built in 1960 and became operational in 1962, with the final missile being slotted into place about one month prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Realizing that the presence of the silos around their town made Roswell a primary target for incoming Soviet missiles, a number of local citizens equipped their homes with bomb shelters.

As Cold War tensions escalated and fear grew that mushroom clouds could erupt at any moment around Roswell, the story of a strange object crash-landing north of town in July 1947 slowly faded from peoples' memories. Soon, the Roswell Incident became just a vague, troubling remembrance locked deep in the psyche of those who lived through it. Nothing had ever come of it, after all.

The government, still trusted implicitly by most residents of this quiet military town, would surely have said something if the object that crashed had truly been a flying saucer.

Roswell residents went on with their lives. From the Cold War stress of the 1950s to the social turmoil of the 1960s, and on to the Watergate era of the 1970s, memories of the UFO incident receded further in the minds of Roswell citizens.

We now fast forward to February 1978. Nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, a part-time UFO researcher and lecturer, was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for a speaking engagement at Louisiana State University, when he received a tip that Major Jesse A. Marcel, the Air Intelligence Officer at Roswell Army Air Field in 1947, was living in Louisiana and that he had an interesting story to tell about the Roswell "UFO crash." Friedman immediately arranged to visit Marcel's home in Houma, Louisiana.

Marcel proceeded to tell Friedman the incredible tale that is now known as "the Roswell Incident." He said that the material found at the Foster Ranch was highly unusual and totally unrecognizable. It was as thin and light as aluminum foil but extremely strong. Marcel and other experience military men who saw the material were certain that it was not anything they had ever seen before.

Friedman proceeded to locate and interview a number of other Roswell witnesses, and the result of his efforts was a book called *The Roswell Incident*, published in 1980. Although the book was credited to travel writer Charles Berlitz and researcher William L. Moore, much of the original idea and impetus for the book came from Friedman, who later published his own version of the story in a book titled *Crash at Corona: The U.S. Military Retrieval and Cover-Up of a UFO*.

After Marcel came forward with his story, numerous other witnesses also began speaking up about what they saw or heard regarding the Roswell Incident. The end result was that by 1997, when the 50th anniversary of the event was celebrated in Roswell, hundreds of individuals had given statements to researchers saying that the 1947 crash north of town was a real event and that it most likely did not have an Earthly explanation.

The story had come full circle, brought back to the public's attention by the very individuals who lived through it in 1947. The resurgence started with the folks who were most involved: Jesse Marcel, Sr., Jesse Marcel, Jr., Walter Haut, Glenn Dennis, Frank Joyce, and many others. Soon, a loud chorus of individuals who lived in Roswell in 1947 began telling stories about the strangest summer of their lives.

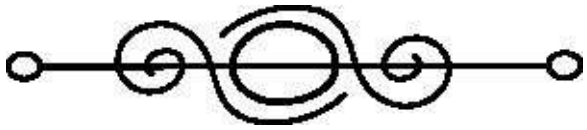
Many stories about UFOs have come and gone and are hardly remembered

anymore, but the story of the Roswell Incident lives on and seems to even gather momentum as each year rolls by. It is the prototypical UFO story, in fact, containing all the elements that would become commonplace in all UFO stories after it, real or imagined. The Roswell story has served as inspiration for thousands of books, magazine articles, newspaper articles, movies, television shows, computer games, comic books, radio shows, Web pages, blogs, posters, and more. Despite all the skeptics and all the naysayers who ridicule the story and say that nothing noteworthy at all happened in Roswell in 1947, something in the human psyche refuses to let go of this wondrous tale.

Perhaps it is our desire to know that we are not alone in the universe. That our existence here on this lonely and isolated planet has a connection to the billions of stars we see in the night sky. That other intelligent beings exist elsewhere in the universe – including some that are possibly thousands or millions of years more advanced than us. Perhaps it is our longing to know that somewhere, perhaps at the center of the universe, lies the secret of our existence, our past, and our future.

Who are we? Where do we come from? How were we created? What is our purpose in the universe? Is there an afterlife? Is there existence without body? Are there others like us? These are truly the "big" questions of life, and somehow, for reasons that we cannot fully explain, what happened in Roswell in 1947 touches upon all these themes, focuses our attention away from the daily hardships of our life on Earth and makes up stare up at the night sky in awe and wonder.

Hundreds of witnesses have come forward and said that something far out of the ordinary happened here in July 1947. If their statements are true, then for a short period of time, our lives were touched by beings from beyond the Earth. That is the wonder of Roswell. That is the reason that this story will never disappear, no matter how many skeptics rise up to rail against it.



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AFTERWORD

By John LeMay

Although thousands of tourists visit Roswell each year in search of information about UFOs, most of them know little of the area's rich history. Tourists typically visit the town's famous UFO museum and perhaps a few of the numerous gift shops along Main Street. As they walk and drive around town, unbeknownst to them, the story of Roswell's past screams out at them from the seemingly-silent walls and interiors of many buildings and sites all around town. Prior to the publication of this book, few people knew exactly where to look for this spellbinding, hidden history. Now, contained herein are the resources needed to visit all the major historical sites related to the alleged UFO crash.

And, those of us interested in the rest of Roswell's history (before and after 1947) are certainly gratified when visitors who come looking for UFOs end up learning about the many fascinating aspects of the history of Southern New Mexico. In truth, the history of this part of New Mexico is deeply intertwined with all that is now considered *Americana* in U.S. history and beyond. Leaving the era of UFOs behind for a bit, let us turn back the calendar to discover how the town of Roswell came to be in the first place.

Traveling back in time to the late 1860s, we find that the area now called Roswell was mired in a period of Indian raids, unruly cowboys, dusty cattle drives and ruthless outlaws. Indeed, Southern New Mexico helped put the "wild" in the Wild West. Originally, the tiny settlement that became Roswell consisted of no more than a 15' x 15' adobe trading post and didn't even have an official name, being instead associated with the nearby Hispanic settlement of Rio Hondo. The trading post, built by James Patterson, was situated along the Goodnight-Loving Cattle Trail which was used to transport beef to the Indian reservation in Fort Sumner, New Mexico. Patterson's trading post was at an ideal spot along the way located in close approximation to several small rivers and an abundance of prairie grass.

Eventually, New England-born Van C. Smith came along and purchased Patterson's trading post, expanding the building and turning the establishment into a combination hotel, restaurant, saloon, and casino. Next door, he built a general store, which later became a post office. In 1872, needing a name for the post office, he chose "Roswell," which was his father's first name, and a town was born.

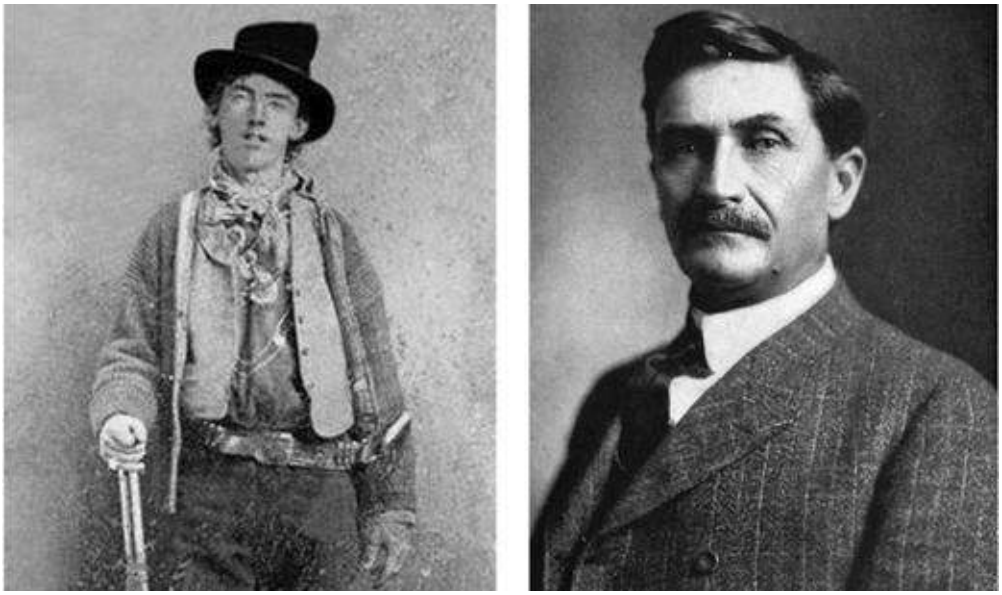
Smith would add another layer to Roswell's colorful Wild West past by turning his small settlement into a gambler's haven, a mini-Las Vegas, if you will, with round-the-clock card games, horse races, and even cockfights. Always seeking something new and more exciting, Smith soon left Roswell, putting the settlement in the hands of patriarchal southerner Captain Joseph C. Lea, a Civil War veteran who had ridden with Quantrill's Confederate Guerillas. Lea shut

down the gambling and turned the town into a more respectable place, so much so that Roswell was even able to stay neutral in the Lincoln County War, New Mexico's biggest Wild West brouhaha.

The conflict was fought over cattle and land rights in Lincoln, now less than an hour's drive from modern day Roswell, and it consumed nearly all of Southeastern New Mexico in blazing gun battles and legal troubles. Captain Lea saw to it that no outlaws caused trouble in his town, most especially the notorious Billy the Kid. Many people are unaware of Roswell's close proximity to the events of the Lincoln County War, the story of which spawned several successful films such as *Young Guns I* & *II* with Emilio Estevez as Billy the Kid, Sam Peckinpah's *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* with James Coburn and Kris Kristofferson, and *Chisum* with John Wayne. Actually, Roswell was home to both John Chisum and Sheriff Pat Garrett, both regarded as heroes in the Lincoln County War.

John Simpson Chisum was one of the wealthiest cattle barons in the West. He came to the Roswell area in the late 1860s with several thousand head of cattle and eventually set up a ranch south of town which has stayed in operation in one way or another to this very day.

Pat Garrett moved to Roswell at the behest of Chisum and Captain Lea to run for Sheriff of Lincoln County, which at that time included the town of Roswell. Although the violence of the Lincoln County War had been stopped thanks to President Rutherford B. Hayes's threatening the territory with martial law, trouble was on the rise: cattle rustling at the hands of young desperados such as Billy the Kid. Garrett, who ironically had been Billy's gambling buddy in Ft. Sumner, won the bid for sheriff and tracked down the Kid and killed him in Ft. Sumner on July 14, 1881. There, Garrett took the Kid by surprise and shot him in a darkened room, thus making Garrett New Mexico's version of Wyatt Earp, in a sense, since he rid the West of one of its most feared outlaws.



Billy the Kid (left) and Pat Garrett (right), Courtesy of Wikipedia

Until the Roswell UFO story became popular in the late 1970s, the legacy of Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, and the Lincoln County War had been the primary tourist attraction in Southeast New Mexico. Ironically, there is actually a bizarre historical link between the Roswell Incident and the Lincoln County War. Sheriff Pat Garrett was shot and killed by a man named Jesse "Wayne" Brazel, who, as it turns out, was related to William "Mack" Brazel, the rancher who claimed to have found UFO debris at his Lincoln County ranch in 1947. Some say Jesse was Mack's uncle, whereas others claim he was a second cousin.

Before being shot by Brazel in 1908, Garrett had a positive effect on the cultivation of the Roswell area with the help of Captain Lea. It was Garrett's idea to irrigate the Pecos Valley with large scale irrigation ditches branching off from several rivers. Although someone other than Garrett ended up finishing the project, Garrett's idea inevitably brought the railroad to Roswell. As happened in many other towns, the coming of the railroad, and later the telephone, heralded the end of the Old West.

While Garrett's partner, Charles Eddy, was away in Colorado looking for partners for their water venture, Eddy met wealthy Canadian John James Hagerman, a railroad man. Hagerman agreed to invest in Eddy's water-scheme, thus displacing Garrett, and came to visit Roswell. Upon arriving Hagerman decided that Roswell could use the services of a railroad and work got under way immediately. Roswell, which for a time claimed to be further from a railroad than any town in the West, finally greeted the arrival of its first locomotive in 1894. In a sense, Garrett helped bring about the modernization of the Old West in more ways than one, even though he may not have been aware of it at the

time.

Roswell's growth continued through the early 20th century with few notable events of historical significance, until the arrival in town of pioneering rocket scientist Robert Hutchings Goddard. When Goddard's explosive rocket experiments incurred the wrath of his neighbors back in his native Massachusetts, famed aviator Charles Lindbergh suggested that Goddard might find the vast stretches of uninhabited desert around Roswell ideal for testing his rockets. Once in New Mexico, Goddard and his wife Esther set up their headquarters at Eden Valley, just north of Roswell -- coincidentally not far from the alleged final impact site of Roswell's crashed saucer in 1947.

While in Roswell, Goddard found weather conditions perfect for his rocket tests, and the locals, for the most part, tolerated his quirky experiments. Goddard's rocket tests in Roswell would have far reaching effects, extending literally to the moon and, before that, into London, England. After unsuccessful attempts by Goddard to interest the U.S. military in his rocket technology, his plans were stolen by German spies, leading to the creation of the Nazi's V-2 rocket program. Only after the Germans used Goddard's rocket designs to rain down destruction upon London did the U.S. see the potential of rockets as weapons of war. As World War II ended, the U.S. captured Goddard's designs back from the Germans, along with their scientists and their expertise, and American rocketry finally got off the ground. Later, Goddard's designs paved the way to man's voyage into outer space and finally to the moon. Unfortunately, Goddard did not live to see the space age, as he died of throat cancer in August of 1945, shortly after hearing about the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan.

Robert H. Goddard (NASA Photo)

The ushering in of the Atomic Age was something else that Roswell would bear close witness to. On July 16, 1945, the flash of light from the world's first detonation of an atomic device could be seen all the way in Roswell, only about a two hour drive from the Trinity Site near Alamogordo. The "cover story" fed by the military to New Mexico residents was that a military weapons depot had exploded. Was this a foreshadowing of the kind of cover-up later used to silence reports of a crashed flying saucer near Roswell?

In another touch of irony, the Boeing B-29 bomber *Enola Gay*, which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and the entire 509th Bomb Unit, the world's first atomic bomb group, were transferred to the Roswell Army Air Field in November of 1945. The RAAF, which had only existed for about four years, suddenly became one of the most important military installations in the world by virtue of its atomic arsenal. It was during this critical period in history that the Roswell Incident took place in 1947.

Enola Gay and its Pilot, Paul Tibbetts, Jr. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

Numerous books have been written about the Roswell UFO case, containing many different accounts and witness testimony. While this information is certainly of great value, there is also much to be gained by visiting and exploring the actual places where these mysterious events reportedly happened, as urged in the old adage, "*If only these walls could talk*." Fittingly, the book you now hold in your hands takes you on a fascinating tour of the city of Roswell from the perspective of the famous 1947 UFO event. Here, for the first time, is the story of every historic building and eerie site that plays an important role in the story of the Roswell Incident. Armed with this information, you the reader are able to walk where the witnesses walked, retrace their steps, and experience for yourself exactly what they experienced.

As I mentioned earlier, prior to the publication of this book, few visitors to Roswell had access to the information required in order for them to actually see the sites where the Roswell Incident took place. Thanks to *Ultimate Guide to the Roswell UFO Crash*, exploring these places will no longer be a problem. The book has even been helpful to me, a lifelong Roswell resident, who should have probably already known where all this stuff supposedly happened. In my own defense though, by the time of my upbringing in Roswell, the UFO incident was so closely associated with the town that all of us living in Roswell just kind of took it for granted. Even as recently as two years ago, while taking weekly jogs on the roads at the old airbase, I was unaware that my route took me right alongside Building 84, where UFO wreckage and possibly bodies were kept back in 1947. Having heard so much "generalized" information about the

Roswell Incident, I had never really bothered to look into the "specifics" of the case. I had always assumed the wreckage and bodies must have been hidden in some secret underground bunker deep inside the base. I had no idea the place where people say it actually happened was just a few feet away from where I passed every week, right alongside the road upon which I jogged.

Nor did I have any idea that many other sites around the town I grew up in had such an intimate connection to the Roswell Incident. For example, I did not know that St. Mary's Hospital played a part in the events or that the building where Frank Joyce conducted his famous interview with Mack Brazel still exists today. I did not even realize that Jesse Marcel's house was in town, and not on the base. It is mind-boggling to see the Marcel residence today, sitting there just like any other house in town on any other normal street with cars passing by it oblivious to its unique history.

I commend Noe Torres for his decision to write this book from the standpoint of the locations themselves, which many people would not ordinarily be able to find on their own, or even realize why they were important to begin with. This seems an important step toward preserving their history.

Although having their town linked with UFOs may not be agreeable to all Roswell residents, it certainly hasn't hurt the local economy. Roswell is no longer remembered for having been the residence of Sheriff Pat Garrett or for being the "Dairy Capital of the Southwest." It's all about the aliens now, for better or for worse. Say "Roswell, New Mexico" to almost any civilized person on earth, and your conversation will invariably turn to UFOs.

For years, the U.S. government has tried its best to explain the Roswell Incident away and to cast ridicule upon anyone who still believes that a UFO crashed near Roswell. The military has issued at least four different explanations trying to drive a final nail into the Roswell UFO coffin. And yet, droves of UFO believers and truth seekers keep flocking to Roswell every year. The Roswell Incident is here to stay, and therefore, it was long past time for a book like this one, which chronicles all the key places in and around Roswell that were involved in this famous UFO case. While these fascinating sites may not yet have official historical markers placed on them, they are nonetheless very much worth visiting, whether by automobile or by means of one's imagination in the comfort of one's own home with a copy of this book held firmly in hand.

John LeMay, Author of *Images of America: Roswell*
Roswell, New Mexico
September 29, 2009

L to R: E.J. Wilson, Elvis Fleming, and John LeMay, Affectionately Known as "Roswell's Three Caballeros."

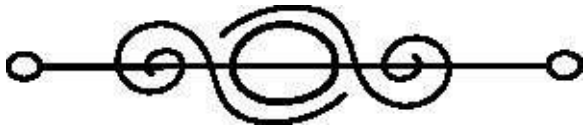
In terms of general research, I received great help from Kevin D. Randle, Lynn Michelsohn, John Lemay, Tom Carey, Don Schmitt, Dennis Balthaser, and Jesse Marcel, Jr. These wonderful souls dutifully responded to my pleas for help sent by e-mail at odd hours of both day and night. Their contributions were many. Special thanks to Tom Carey and Don Schmitt, whose book *Witness to Roswell*, inspired the writing of this book and also served as an important source of witness data about the Roswell Incident.

Regarding the proposed UFO crash locations, I am much indebted to archeologist Pat Flanary, who until recently worked at the Roswell Field Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Pat has worked with a number of other UFO researchers over the years as they sought physical evidence at the Old Foster Ranch site, and he was most gracious and helpful to me when I was writing the chapters on the alleged crash sites.

Finally, I offer my most sincere thanks to the person who started me on this road in the first place: Julie Schuster, director of Roswell's *International UFO Museum and Research Center* and daughter of Roswell eyewitness Walter G. Haut. As my friend Ruben Uriarte and I took our first stumbling steps in 2006 toward writing a series of books about UFO crashes, Julie was right there to help and encourage us. She invited us to speak at the UFO museum's annual conferences and, along with the wonderful Sandy James, arranged to sell our

books in the museum's gift shop. Through our appearances at the museum, I met the individuals who became key players in this book – E. J. Wilson, Jesse Marcel, Jr., Tom Carey, Don Schmitt, and Pat Flanary.

To all these wonderful souls, I send my warmest thanks and highest regards. May your life journey continue to be rich and fulfilling.



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